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Inside the Classics:
Love That Dare Not Speak

Sat Jun 1 8pm

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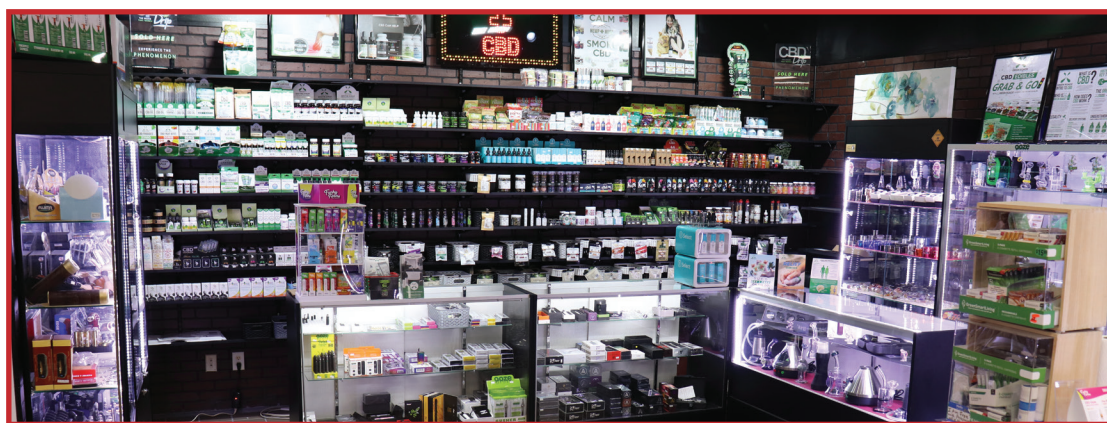
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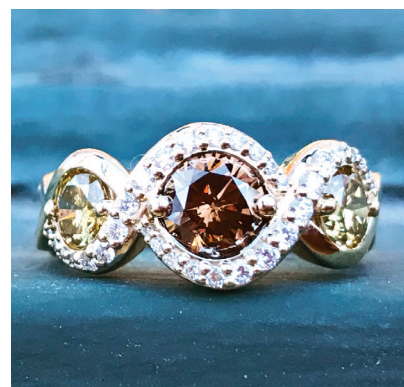
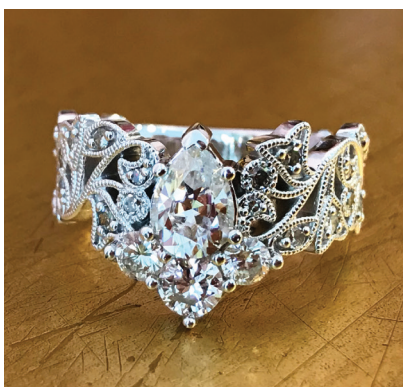
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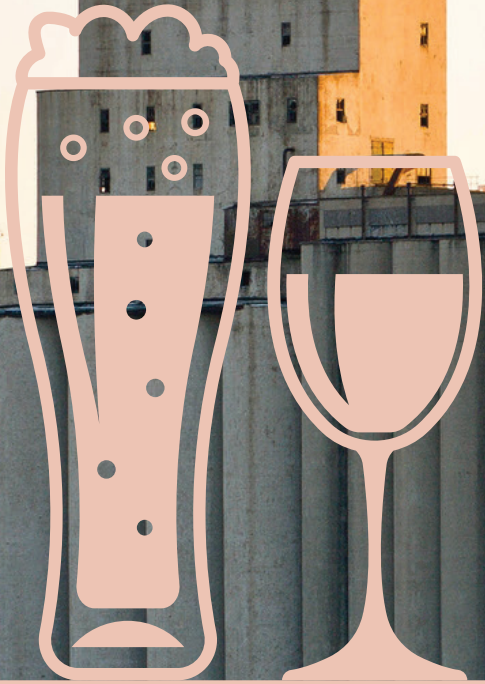
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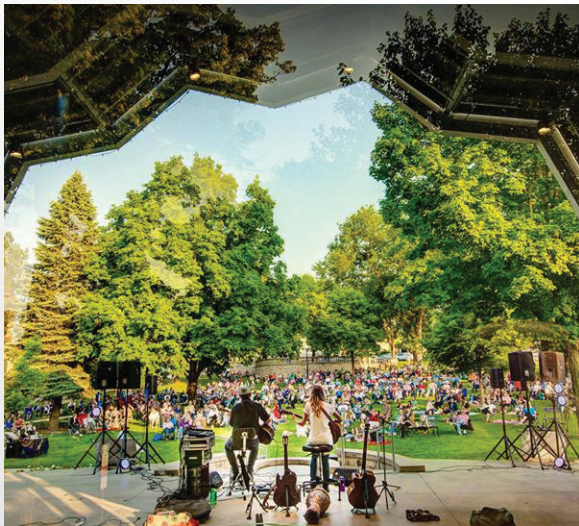
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and we have no plans to grow up any time soon. But as much as we still enjoy snark—both ours and yours—it's nice to mix in a little positivity, say, once a year, and throw compliments the way of local businesses, attractions, stars, and unsung successes. The City Pages Best of the Twin Cities issue does all that, or tries to. Trust us, disagree with us, write us nasty notes. However you feel, we're happy that you keep coming back after all this time.

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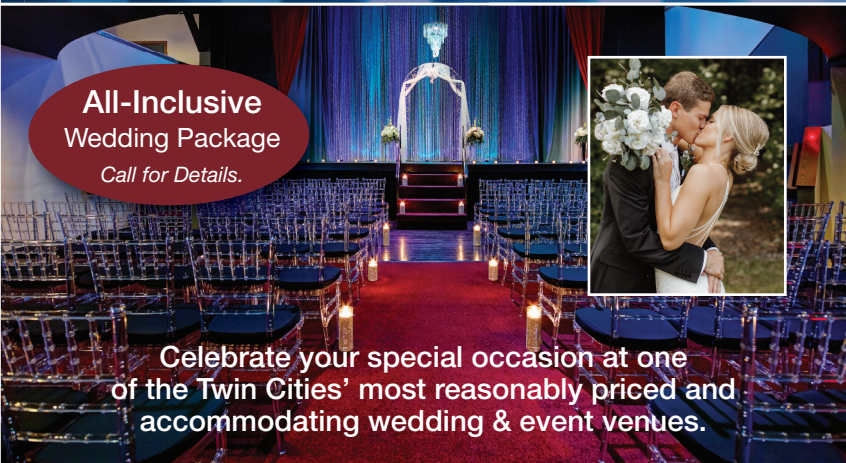
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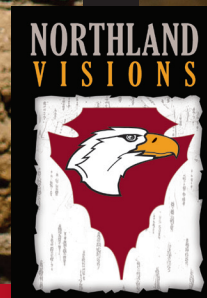
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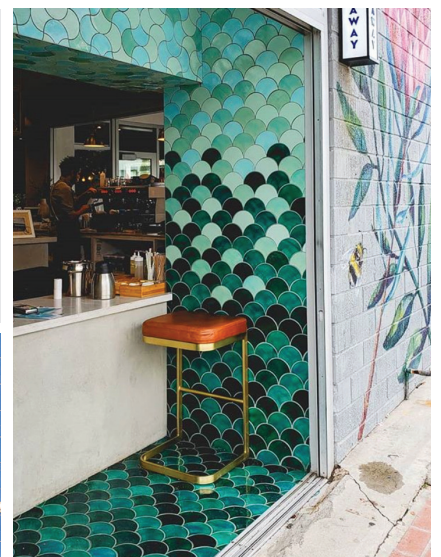
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HOUSE OF COMEDY
MAY 2019



PAUL MECURIO
MAY 2-4
THE LATE SHOW
WITH STEVE COLBERT
THE DAILY SHOW
WITH JON STEWART
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JOHN HEFFRON
MAY 9-11
LAST COMIC STANDING
CHELSEA LATELY
WTF WITH MARC MARON



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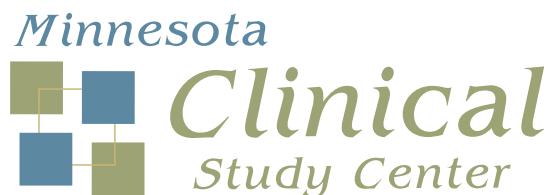
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Best Bookstore (Used): Half Price Books
Best Comedy Club: Acme Comedy Co.
Best Comedy Open Mic: Acme Comedy Co.
Best Public Art: Minneapolis Sculpture Garden
Best Fashion Designer: Tess + Tricia
Best Standup Comic: Rana May
Best Movie Theater: Riverview Theater
Best Museum: Minneapolis Institute of Art
Best Theater: Guthrie Theater

MUSIC

Best Album: *Bambi* by Hippo Campus
Best Club DJ: Shannon Blowtorch
Best Concert: Lizzo at Palace Theatre
Best Concert (Touring): Lizzo at Icehouse
Best Concert Venue: First Avenue/7th St. Entry
Best Hip-Hop Artist: Lizzo
Best Local Rock Band: Hippo Campus
Best Karaoke: Vegas Lounge
Best Place to See a Concert with Kids: Minnesota Zoo
Best Music Festival: Basilica Block Party
Best New Band: Mae Simpson
Best R&B Artist: Lizzo
Best Record Store Day Location: Electric Fetus

TALK OF THE TOWN

Best Coach: Lindsay Whalen
Best Instagram: @eatdrinkdishmpls
Best Radio Personality: Mary Lucia
Best Lynx Player: Lindsay Whalen
Best Place to People-Watch: Minnesota State Fair
Best Radio Station: 89.3 the Current
Best Sports Team: Minnesota Lynx
Best Timberwolves Player: Karl-Anthony Towns
Best TV Newsperson: Jana Shortal
Best TV Sports Anchor: Mark Rosen
Best TV Station: KARE 11
Best Twins Player: Joe Mauer
Best Vikings Player: Adam Thielen
Best Wild Player: Zach Parise

CITY LIFE

Best Beach: Hidden Beach (Cedar Lake East Beach)
Best Boutique: Patina
Best Bowling Alley: Bryant-Lake Bowl
Best Casino: Mystic Lake
Best Dance Club: First Avenue
Best Festival: Minnesota State Fair
Best Gaming Shop: Source Comics & Games
Best Gym: Minneapolis Bouldering Project

Best Hotel: The Saint Paul Hotel
Best Lingerie Store: Smitten Kitten
Best Place to Buy Vinyl: Electric Fetus
Best Place to Do Yoga: CorePower Yoga
Best Place to Ice Skate: Lake of the Isles
Best Place to Shoot Pool: CC Club
Best Public Park: Minnehaha Park and Falls
Best Salon/Spa: Juut Salon Spa
Best Tattoo Parlor: Saint Sabrina's
Best Thrift Store: Unique Thrift Store
Best Vintage Shop: Rewind

FOOD AND DRINK

Best Barbecue: Revival
Best Bloody Mary: Hell's Kitchen
Best Breakfast: Keys Cafe & Bakery
Best Brunch: Hell's Kitchen
Best Burger (Classic): Matt's Bar
Best Chinese Restaurant: Rainbow Chinese
Best Cocktails: Tatterstall Distilling
Best Coffee Shop: Spyhouse Coffee
Best Diner: Mickey's Diner
Best Distillery: Tatterstall Distilling
Best Dive Bar: Grumpy's Northeast
Best Doughnuts: Glam Doll Donuts
Best Food Truck: Potter's Pasties
Best Fried Chicken: Revival
Best Fries: Red Cow
Best Happy Hour: Red Cow
Best Ice Cream: Izzy's Ice Cream
Best Italian Restaurant: Cossetta's
Best Korean Restaurant: Hoban Restaurant
Best Liquor Store: Surdyk's Liquor & Cheese Shop
Best Local Beer: Surly Furious
Best Lunch: French Meadow Bakery
Best Margarita: Barrio
Best Mexican Restaurant: El Burrito Mercado
Best New Restaurant: In Bloom
Best Pancakes: The Original Pancake House
Best Pizza: Pizza Lucé
Best Ramen: Ramen Kazama
Best Restaurant for Romance: W. A. Frost
Best Restaurant in Minneapolis: Spoon and Stable
Best Restaurant in St. Paul: The Lexington
Best Service: Spoon and Stable
Best Sports Bar: Bunny's Bar & Grill
Best State Fair Food: Original Cheese Curds
Best Steak: Manny's Steakhouse
Best Restaurant in the 'Burbs: Travail Kitchen & Amusements
Best Sushi: Fuji Ya
Best Tacos: Taco Cat
Best Taproom: Surly Brewing Co.
Best Vietnamese Restaurant: Quang Restaurant
Best Wings: Blue Door Pub

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with...
FLORA CASH
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THERE'S A FEVER COMING...
FEVER
4.29 | VARSITY THEATER



BAD SUNS
4.30 | VARSITY THEATER



THE SCORE
WITH
LOSTBOYCROW
OVERSTREET
4.30
AMSTERDAM BAR & HALL



TOM ODELL
— JUBILEE ROAD TOUR —
LUCIE SILVAS
5.1 | VARSITY THEATER



PREACHER LAWSON
Get To Know Me
5.2 | VARSITY THEATER



OVER KILL
WINGS OVER THE USA
WITH SPECIAL GUEST
DEATH ANGEL
5.3 | VARSITY THEATER



Jesse
I ♥ TOUR
GOODY GRACE
& HEARTS <3
OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD
5.4
AMSTERDAM BAR & HALL



PICTURE THIS
2019 NORTH AMERICA TOUR
5.7
AMSTERDAM BAR & HALL



ANDY BLACK
5.8 | VARSITY THEATER



LAUNDRY DAY
5.10 | THE GARAGE



PARACHUTE
THE Young TOUR 2019
WITH SPECIAL GUEST
Billy Raffoul
5.12 | VARSITY THEATER



AMANDA SEALES
5.17 | VARSITY THEATER



L7
le butcherettes
5.19 | VARSITY THEATER



XAVIER WOLF
THE HOLLOWSQUAD TOUR
W/ DEAD YOUNG PUNCE, MARLEY GOMES AND REED HAVOC
5.28 | VARSITY THEATER



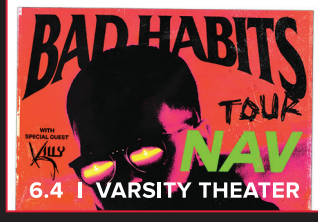
Aly & AJ
5.31 | VARSITY THEATER



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TODD RUNDGREN
THE INDIVIDUALIST TOUR
★★★★★
6.3 | AMES CENTER



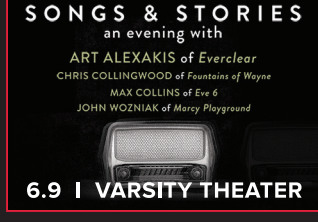
RICH THE KID
6.3 | VARSITY THEATER



BAD HABITS
TOUR
NAV
WITH SPECIAL GUEST
VILLY
6.4 | VARSITY THEATER



JOSH GARRELS
6.6 | VARSITY THEATER



SONGS & STORIES
an evening with
ART ALEXAKIS of Everclear
CHRIS COLLINGWOOD of Fountains of Wayne
MAX COLLINS of Eve 6
JOHN WOZNAK of Marcy Playground
6.9 | VARSITY THEATER



DENNIS LLOYD
THE NEVER GO BACK TOUR
6.10
AMSTERDAM BAR & HALL



LED ZEPPELIN
CELEBRATES THE
50TH
ANNIVERSARY
OF LED ZEPPELIN II
6.15 | VARSITY THEATER



ALEX AIONO
FUN 23
with special guest
AJA9
6.20 | VARSITY THEATER



NEW FOUND GLORY
REAL FRIENDS
THE EARLY NOVEMBER AND BULLSKIN
6.21 | VARSITY THEATER



ANBERLIN
6.28 | VARSITY THEATER



EARLY RAE JEPSEN
DEDICATED
TOUR
7.5 | STATE THEATRE



PATTON OSWALT
7.11 | STATE THEATRE



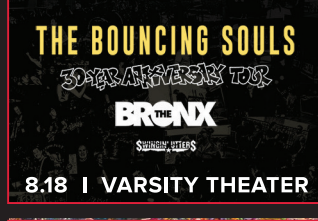
CHASE ATLANTIC
PHASES TOUR NORTH AMERICA
7.13 | VARSITY THEATER



Jim Blossoms
7.31 | VARSITY THEATER



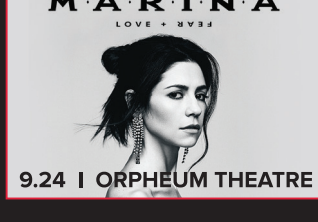
SUMMER SALT
WITH DANTE ELEPHANTE
MOTEL RADIO
8.1
AMSTERDAM BAR & HALL



THE BOUNCING SOULS
30th ANNIVERSARY TOUR
BRONX
SUNDAY, 8/12
8.18 | VARSITY THEATER



marc maron
Hey, There's More Tour
9.22 | PANTAGES THEATRE



MARINA
LOVE + NUSS
9.24 | ORPHEUM THEATRE



TOM SEGURA
TAKE IT DOWN
TOUR
10.11 | NORTHROP



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10.12 | STATE THEATRE



MT JOY
10.12 | VARSITY THEATER



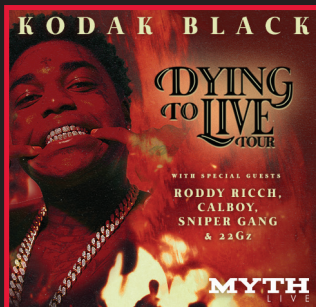
CARBON LEAF
HINDSIGHT'S 2019
LOOK PAST THE FUTURE TOUR
10.15
AMSTERDAM BAR & HALL

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ARTS *and* CULTURE



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MAY 1



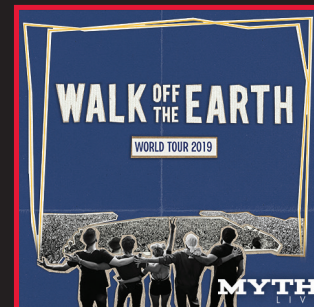
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FRI. MAY 10



FRI. MAY 17



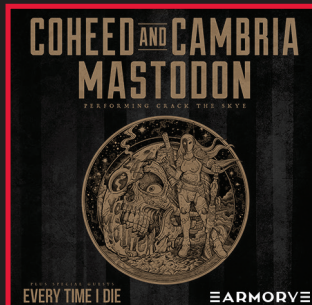
SAT. MAY 18



SAT. JUNE 8



JUNE 11



SAT. JUNE 15



JUNE 25



FRI. JUNE 28



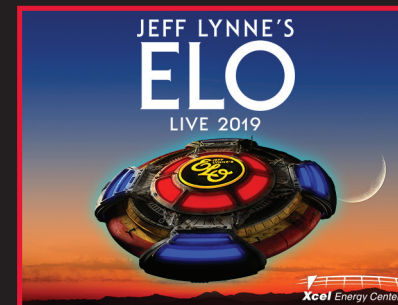
JULY 8



SAT. JULY 20



JULY 23



JULY 25



JULY 28



SAT. AUGUST 3



AUGUST 5



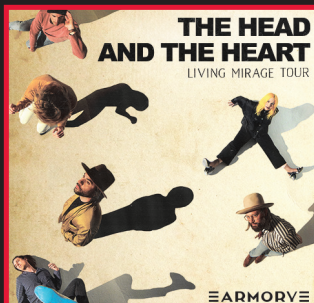
AUGUST 26



FRI. SEPTEMBER 6



SAT. SEPTEMBER 7



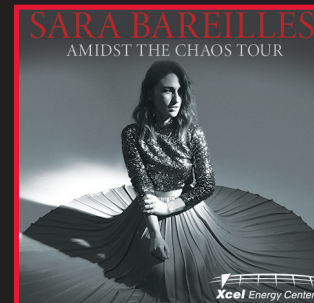
SEPTEMBER 18



SAT. SEPTEMBER 28



SAT. OCTOBER 5



OCTOBER 16

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Best Theater Troupe

Theatre Coup d'Etat
theatrecoupdetat.com

Over the past several years, Theatre Coup d'Etat has crafted a distinctive style that unites body and brain. Artistic director James Napoleon Stone has led animal acting classes, and the payoff for that completely committed physicality is manifest in each of the company's shows, which have become can't-miss events. In 2018, Coup d'Etat staged *The Tempest* with a tripartite Ariel whipping through the audience, alternately smashing together and peeling apart. Stone and his trusting collaborators have a gift for leveraging the immediacy of live theater to create unforgettable experiences.

Best Play

West Side Story
Guthrie Theater, 818 S. Second St.,
Minneapolis
612-377-2224
guthrietheater.org

No finger snaps? In creating a bold new production of *West Side Story*, the

Guthrie Theater risked heresy, but it also reminded theatergoers just how little Leonard Bernstein's masterpiece has been allowed to evolve over time. With fresh and urgent new choreography by Maija García, Joseph Haj's production wiped away any nostalgic sugarcoating to reveal the dark heart of this gloriously vibrant but desperately sad show, one that's particularly relevant in our era of naked xenophobia. This was a *West Side Story* full of bold choices that all came together for an unforgettable experience that grabbed your attention and then made good use of it.

Best Director

Wendy Knox
Frank Theatre
franktheatre.org

Wendy Knox is Frank Theatre. The company she founded is now in its 30th season of tackling some of the biggest, weirdest, most ambitious, and most important plays in the canon. When it comes to venues, she thinks way outside the box: For last year's Frank production of

Friedrich Dürrenmatt's *The Visit*, Knox took her sprawling cast to the Minnesota Transportation Museum. And Knox also excels in more conventional settings. She directed Park Square's recent production of *Marie and Rosetta*, shaping the rich development of a complex relationship and clearing space for thrilling musical moments.

Best Actor

C. Michael Menge

In another strong year at the Jungle Theater, C. Michael Menge brought humor and humanity to a pair of key roles. In *Hand to God*, Menge played Jessica, who cares for a troubled friend but can't abide the outrageous puppet who becomes his alter ego. Menge found a crucial note of empathy while also nailing the character's exasperated comic moments. Then, in *Little Women*, Menge played Jo. Menge and Michael Hanna, as Laurie, developed a fascinating relationship that begins as a world the pair discover they can share: a world where gender norms are fluid, where Jo's clever head and full heart can flourish. Menge's nuanced performance

movingly brought the audience into that world, too.

Best Theater

Mixed Blood Theatre
1501 S. Fourth St.
Minneapolis
612-338-6131
mixedblood.com

If you think that theater isn't producing work at the forefront of essential conversations about race, gender, and social justice, you haven't been going to Mixed Blood. The past year has seen a truly remarkable run of shows that use the unique power of live theater to engage, inform, provoke, and entertain. *Two Mile Hollow* hilariously flipped the script on a WASPy soap opera with an all-Asian cast. *Mermaid Hour* was a poignant look at both the challenges and the beauty of being a trans tween. *Is God Is* burned down the house with a blistering tale of African-American women's revenge. And *Prescient Harbingers* spotlighted black male playwrights to brilliant effect.

Readers' Choice: Guthrie Theater

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UPCOMING EVENTS

SATURDAY
April 27
10am-3pm

Hopping into Spring CRAFT & GIFT EXPO

Hippodrome
White Bear Lake, MN

SUNDAY
April 28
10am-3pm

Spring Blossom CRAFT & GIFT EXPO

Hastings High School
Hastings, MN

SATURDAY
May 4
10am-3pm

Perfectly Anoka CRAFT & GIFT EXPO

Anoka-Ramsey Community College
Anoka, MN

SATURDAY
May 4
10am-3pm

Spring is in The Air CRAFT & GIFT EXPO

White Bear Lake Armory
White Bear Lake, MN

SUNDAY
May 5
10am-3pm

Mother Madness CRAFT & GIFT EXPO

New Prague High School
New Prague, MN

SATURDAY
May 11
10am-3pm

Perfectly May Flowers CRAFT & GIFT EXPO

Veterans Memorial Comm. Center
Inver Grove, MN

SATURDAY
May 18
10am-3pm

Spring-a-thon CRAFT & GIFT EXPO

Northfield Ice Arena
Northfield, MN

SUNDAY
May 19
10am-3pm

Summer Loving CRAFT & GIFT EXPO

Chaska Community Center
Chaska, MN

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ARTS and CULTURE

Best Dance Company

TU Dance
2121 University Ave. W.
St. Paul
612-605-1925
tudance.org

TU Dance's collaboration with Bon Iver received most of the attention last year, with sold-out performances from the Palace Theatre in St. Paul to the Hollywood Bowl in L.A. But the company's 15th anniversary performance at the Ordway was the one to see and bask in. In a program of three works—a new retrospective compilation; the gorgeous balm for the soul, “Salve”; and the vibrant Ernie Barnes-inspired “With Love”—the company was at its best. The show was vibrant with possibility, redolent with history, and unflinchingly present while unpacking narratives of gender and race.

Best Choreographer

Alanna Morris-Van Tassel
alannamvt.com

After years of astounding performances with TU Dance, in which her emotional bravery matched her aesthetic integrity, Alanna Morris-Van Tassel ventured out on her own. And what a debut it was. In her solo *Yam, Potatoe an Fish!*, she delved into notions of home, displacement, race, and memory to create a personal cultural history that rang with universal truths. She found inspiration in her family's migration from the Caribbean to Brooklyn, as well as her grandmother's Yoruba-influenced Spiritual Baptist faith. Through her own body—athletic, articulate, and full of grace—she generated a movement vocabulary infused with muscular power and soul-soothing prayer.

Best Dance Performance

ICON SAM: Temple Dances
Hennepin Center for the Arts, 528
Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis

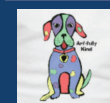
By moving off the traditional concert stage and out of her pointe shoes, Sally Rousse (a ballerina and co-founder of James Sewell Ballet) has been choreographing deep dives into space and place, immersing guests in site-based works that enlighten and delight. Her biggest, boldest initiative to date was *ICON SAM*, which took place throughout the historic Hennepin Center for the Arts, including all its nooks and crannies, stairwells, and hidden rooms. The title is an anagram for “masonic,” as the 1888 building began its life as a temple for the secret society. Using dance, spoken text, and set

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612-624-2345

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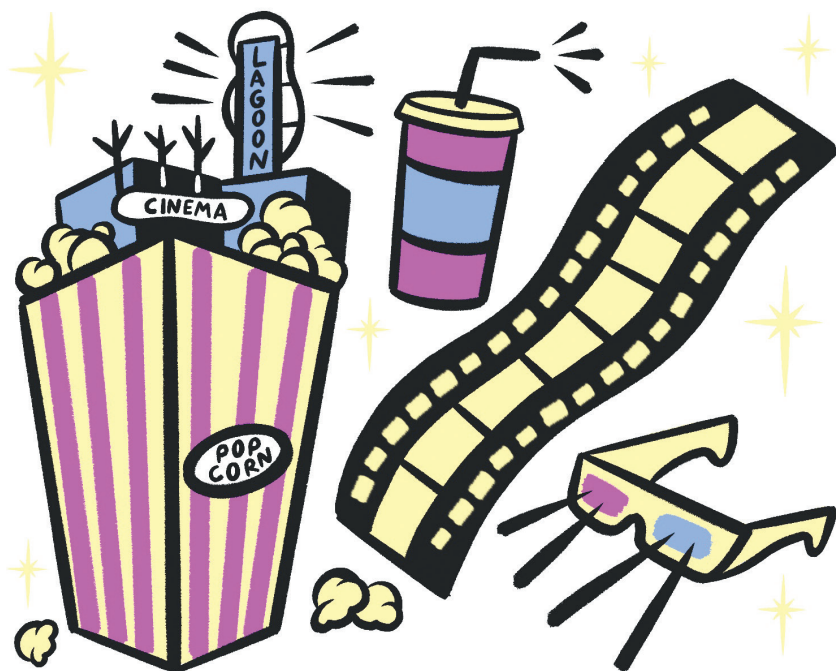
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pieces, all performed by a who's who of Twin Cities artists, Rousse orchestrated a symphony of revelatory histories with humor and humanity.

Best Movie Theater

Lagoon Cinema
1320 Lagoon Ave.
Minneapolis
612-823-3020
landmarktheatres.com

Twin Cities moviegoers are spoiled, with our retrospectives at the Trylon, high culture at the Walker, and midnight classics at the remodeled Uptown. The Parkway has gotten new life, and we even have a fancy new Alamo Drafthouse out in the 'burbs. Call us old-fashioned, but we're content to be creatures of the Lagoon. Here it's not about the mechanized chair you're in or the craft cocktail available or the finicky Dolby sound quality of some unwatchable dreck. No stadium-stacked seats, just the gentle, comforting slope of yesteryear leading down to a screen showing actual great movies—not only the Oscar winners but the movies that should win all the Oscars (#SorryToBotherYou). The Lagoon is also a sneaky great place to catch blockbusters on opening weekend without throwing elbows at the comic-con set; the Lagoon often reserves one screen for the biggest Marvel or *Star Wars* installment, which nobody expects at this arthouse hub. But let's keep that our secret.

Readers' Choice: Riverview Theater

Best Standup Comic

Rana May
ranamay.com

Giving humorous speeches and presentations for friends at barbecues and basement parties was a gateway for Rana May to try standup. And thank god she made that leap, because her observations and riffs are funny as hell. "People always act like I'm looking at them weird outside the store," she writes via her hilarious Twitter, @rana_may, "but usually I'm just trying to remember where I parked by staring into their eyes and walking toward them." When she's not in the spotlight, she's organizing events showcasing local comedians. Each installment of PSSY CTRL at Comedy Corner Underground features women, POC, and LGBTQ standups. Her annual year-end review at the Turf Club brings comedians together to send things off with a middle finger. May can also frequently be found working solo on Sisyphus' stage.

Readers' Choice: Rana May

Best Open Mic (Comedy)

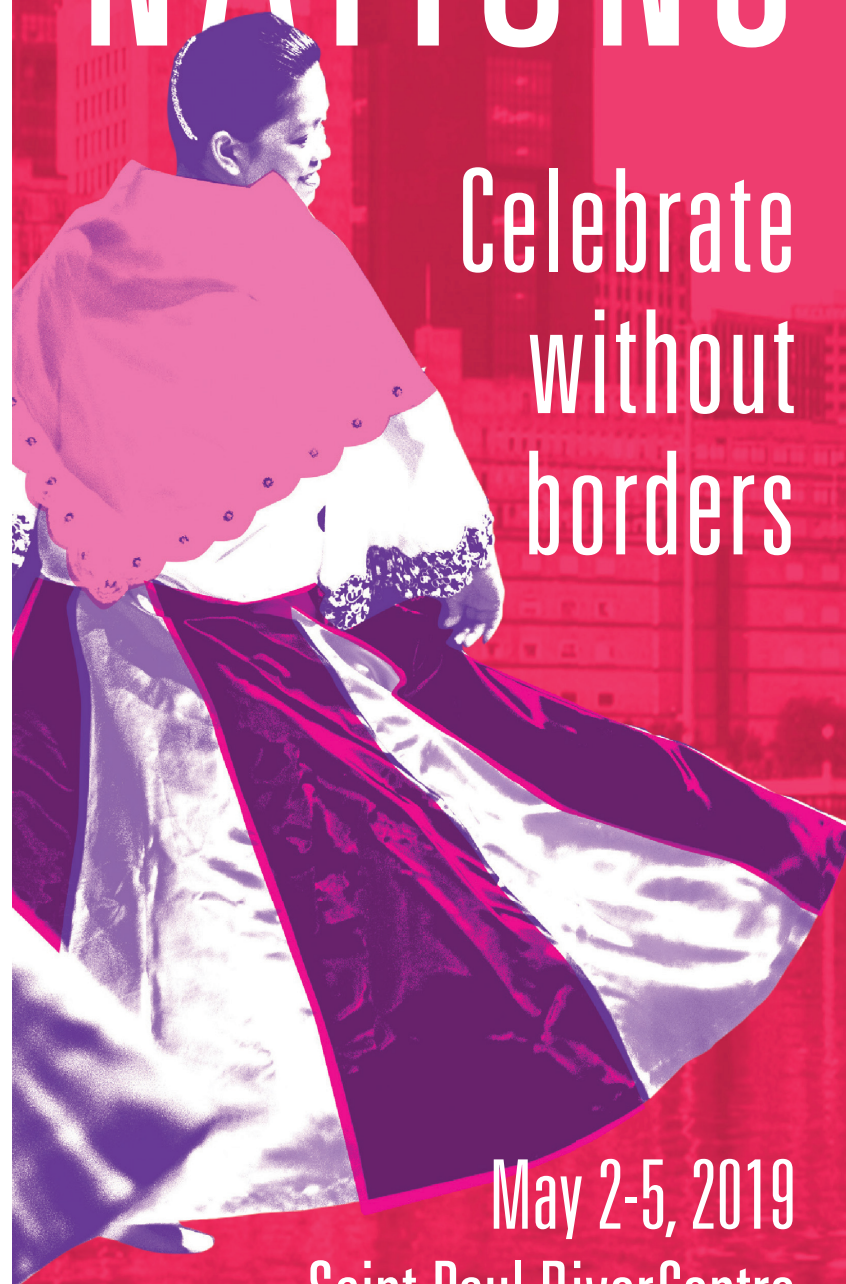
Red Menace at Erik the Red
610 Chicago Ave., Minneapolis
612-249-5999
eriktheredbar.com

Taking place each Tuesday, Red Menace has quickly become a must-visit open mic, whether you're looking for stage time or you're a comedy fan in search of something new. The show, created

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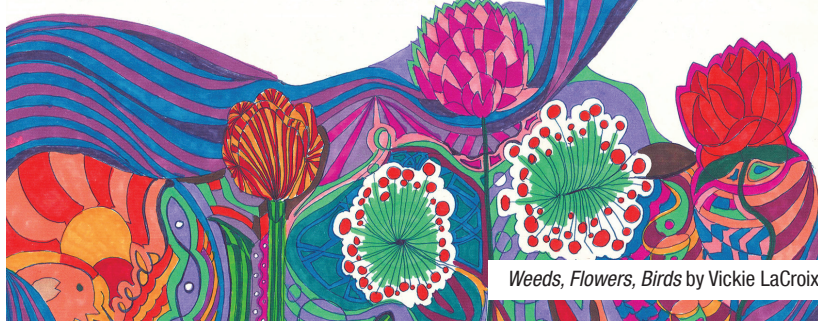
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CAPONIARTPARK.ORG

ARTS and CULTURE

in 2017 by local standup (and CP proof-reader) Bryan Miller, highlights more established comedians in its first hour, followed by a featured comic who does a longer, roughly 10-minute set. From there, the night keeps rolling until everyone who signed up has had the chance to get onstage. With last year's closure of Grumpy's downtown, Red Menace has also quickly become the midweek hangout spot for comics in town, attracting big names like Nick Swardson and Fancy Ray McCloney, both of whom have popped in to have a drink and polish some new material.

Readers' Choice: Acme Comedy Co.

Best Comedy Club

Acme Comedy Co.
708 First St. N., Minneapolis
612-338-6393
acmecomedycountry.com

It would be really easy for Acme to rest on its laurels. For over 25 years, the club has been hallowed ground for local comedians looking to launch their standup careers, a destination for some of the biggest names in comedy world-wide, and a perfect night out for comedy fans of all kinds. With a legendary free open mic night on Mondays that often attracts national headliners looking to work on new material, and its long-running Funniest Person Contest that has been responsible for discovering names like Andy Erikson, Chad Daniels, Tim Harmston, and Mary Mack, Acme has built a reputation that should keep it on any best of list for years to come. But they aren't satisfied coasting. Instead, Acme has continued to innovate, introducing a series where high schoolers interested in standup can meet performers, ask questions, and check out a show. This past year has seen special performances from people like Aziz Ansari and Dave Attell, proving that the reputation of Acme reaches into the upper echelon of comedy.

Readers' Choice: Acme Comedy Co.

Best Comedy Podcast

I Love You, Mana
ilympod.libsyn.com

Officially, *I Love You, Mana* is a podcast about Magic: The Gathering and its fandom. Unofficially, it's an audio version of a fever dream. Each week(ish), comedians Mike Lester, Zach Kagan, and Tor Uggen sit down and discuss... everything. Murder, ingrown hairs, and Jonah Hill have all been hot topics that the trio has tackled.

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MAY 2

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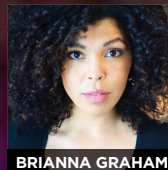
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651.224.4222

MINNEAPOLIS MAY 2-5, 2019



TASTE OF ICELAND

Taste of Iceland comes to Minneapolis May 2-5 for a weekend jam-packed with all things Icelandic! Iceland Naturally's famous cultural festival features several mostly free events throughout the city that highlight the best of Iceland's unique culture, music, design, film and more.

CUISINE

ICELANDIC MENU AT RED STAG SUPPERCLUB | DINNER | COCKTAILS | MAY 2-5

Icelandic cuisine from Chef Viktor Örn Andrússon of Iceland and Chef Joseph Holmes of Red Stag Supperclub, and custom cocktails from Icelandic Mixologist Tóta.

LITERATURE

ON TIME AND WATER: A CALL TO A NEW SCIENTIFIC REVOLUTION | MAY 3 | 4-6PM

At Water Bar & Public Studio, Author Andri Snær Magnason will discuss how he weaves a web of stories from mythology, to his grandmother's honeymoon on Europe's largest glacier, to our understanding of our intimate time.

MUSIC

REYKJAVIK CALLING AT FINE LINE | MAY 3 | DOORS AT 8PM, SHOW AT 9PM

Icelandic acts Mammút and Kælan Mikla join American band, The Bad Man onstage for a live performance at Fine Line.

FILM

SHORTFISH AT THE TRYLON CINEMA | MAY 4 | 2:30-4:30PM

A screening of Iceland's premier short film festival by Stockfish.

COCKTAILS

TASTE OF ICELAND COCKTAIL CLASS AT ROOFTOP AT THE HEWING HOTEL | MAY 2 | 5-7PM

Shake, stir, and sip Icelandic cocktails made with Reyka Vodka and Brennivín through a demonstration and hands-on tutorial by renowned Icelandic mixologist Tóta.

LITERATURE

ICELAND'S THRIVING LITERARY SCENE WITH AUTHOR ANDRI SNÆR MAGNASON WITH RAIN TAXI AT OPEN BOOK | MAY 5 | 3-5PM

Author Andri Snær Magnason will discuss his wide ranging work that includes supermarket poetry, science fiction, and critical writings about current issues in Iceland.

ICELAND NATURALLY

ICELANDNATURALLY.COM
#TASTEOFICELAND

ARTS and CULTURE

In all fairness, they do talk about Magic, too, but they discuss it in a way that's accessible and funny, even if you have no experience with the game. What makes the podcast stand out is how much fun the gang genuinely seems to have with one another. With around 40 episodes online and no signs of slowing down, it's a perfect listen for anyone who wants to binge on hilarious insanity.

Best Museum

Minnesota History Center
345 W. Kellogg Blvd., St. Paul
651-259-3000

mnhs.org/historycenter

As Irish philosopher Edmund Burke once said, "Those who don't know history are doomed to repeat it." Considering our national state of affairs, far too many are missing that knowledge. But the Minnesota History Center is the antidote. Its exhibits cover all the eras you'd expect, like the state's mining and farming backgrounds, and ancient Native history. Yet it also goes refreshingly beyond the traditional history-as-seen-through-the-eyes-of-important-white-guys approach. There have been exhibits on the great Somali migration, oral histories of newcomers from 22 different countries, and even a retrospective on First Avenue opening next month. This is a museum with more than the past in mind. It's a place that will help us see our way to a better future.

Readers' Choice:
Minneapolis Institute of Art

Best Museum Exhibition

"Siah Armajani: Follow This Line"

Walker Art Center,
725 Vineland Place, Minneapolis
612-375-7600

walkerart.org

Even before Siah Armajani's exhibition opened at the Walker Art Center last fall, it was very likely that you were already familiar with his work, even if you didn't know it. Armajani has designed a variety of bridges, skyways, and gazebos around the Twin Cities, most notably the Irene Hixon Whitney Bridge, which connects the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden and Loring Park. "Follow This Line" was an opportunity for folks to learn more about the Tehran-born artist's public works, and to take a deeper look at his trajectory as a longtime local artist with international acclaim. The exhibition also featured text-based pieces created while Armajani was a student at Macalester College, as well as the striking sculptures

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ARTS and CULTURE

he has created throughout his career, including the Iraq War-inspired *Fallujah*.

Best Permanent Collection Piece

The Bell Museum's Woolly Mammoth
2088 Larpenteur Ave. W., St. Paul
612-626-9660
bellmuseum.umn.edu

It doesn't matter how old you are. Kids and adults alike will feel the same potent, breathless mixture of fear and awe when they round a corner in St. Paul's Bell Museum and come face-to-trunk with an 11-foot-tall woolly mammoth. The massive model has been posed before a gigantic wall of ice, looming over those who enter, brandishing tusks beyond compare to any living animal. In a world largely under the control of people, it's almost refreshing to experience a bit of the unmoored feeling our Ice Age ancestors may have felt when confronted with a creature much more powerful than ourselves.

Best Gallery Exhibition

"Kinngait Studios: Printmaking in the Arctic Circle"
Highpoint Center for Printmaking,
912 W. Lake St., Minneapolis
612-871-1326
highpointprintmaking.org

Artwork by a group of contemporary Inuit printmakers from the arctic circle proved to be a compelling exhibition at Highpoint Center for Printmaking last fall. At Kinngait Studios, members draw on Inuit artistic and cultural traditions. The show at Highpoint featured pieces from the group that were narrative and often political, touching on climate change, the environment, and feminism. Among the highlights of the show were Kakulu Saggiaktok's fantastical creatures, Shuvina Ashoona's personal and subversive pieces, and Ningiukulu Teevee's harrowing illustration of the Inuit goddess Nuliajuq, whose traumatic death at sea serves as an origin story for aquatic animals.

Best Art Gallery

Modus Locus
3500 Bloomington Ave.
Minneapolis
612-382-9477
moduslocusmpls.com

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refreshing and unpretentious gallery exhibitions. Owner Ephraim Eusebio is a Burning Man vet, was a performer during the early years of Barebones' Halloween Extravaganza, and is an Art Car aficionado. Those DIY, community-based interests clearly influence Modus Locus' mood and style. Eusebio surrounds himself with a solid team, including gallery manager Mirna Rae and curators Mackenzie Owens and Kimani Beard. Recent exhibitions include "13 Baba Yaga Huts," which featured Daniel Polnau's wild creations; group show "Invisible Light," which stirred the senses with illuminated pieces; and "Festival de las Calaveras Art Exhibition," which showcased local Latinx artists.

Readers' Choice:
Minneapolis Institute of Art

Best Public Art

American Indian Center
1530 E. Franklin Ave.
Minneapolis
612-871-4555
maicnet.org

Spanning the entire east wall of the American Indian Center in the Phillips neighborhood is a vibrant 3,300-square-foot triptych. To the left and right are Votan Henriquez's serene depictions of male and female Native ancestors. Gregg Deal is responsible for the center panel, a portrait of a young woman with a hopeful look. Underneath her is an edict: "Keep Tobacco Sacred," a nod to collaborating nonprofit ClearWay Minnesota, which advocates against cigarette addiction. In between each piece is a message offering

continuity across history: "The hearts of the children to the elders," and, "The hearts of the elders to the children." Native American kids were consulted on what they wanted to see the murals communicate to their neighborhood. Some also helped paint, and one even modeled. Completed in 2015, this piece has become an iconic example of Minneapolis activism through art.

Readers' Choice:
Minneapolis Sculpture Garden

Best Place to Buy Art Supplies

Wet Paint
1684 Grand Ave.
St. Paul
651-698-6431
wetpaintart.com

Everyone remembers the first really great art teacher they ever had — the one that showed them the medium they grew to love, or the artist they came to idolize. Wet Paint is a place that inspires the same creative energy that teacher did, and it's run by people just as interested and passionate. Its staff is composed of practicing artists. It supports local art programs and exhibitions. It's been on Grand Avenue since 1976. And yes: It does have the one kind of pen you've needed for years, and they can point you to the shelf it's on. Come looking for that one thing you need for that one project. Leave with way too much stuff and enough ideas to keep you busy for months.

Readers' Choice: Blick Art Materials

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Best Art Event

MayDay Parade and Festival
Powderhorn Park, 3400 15th Ave. S.
Minneapolis
hobt.org

Last January, massive sorrow ensued in the Twin Cities when In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre announced that, due to financial struggles, their annual MayDay Parade and Festival would be coming to an end. The good news is that we have one more MayDay that is happening for sure, so let's celebrate all the puppetry, tall bikes, stilt dancing, elaborate costumes, pomp, ritual, and community love while we still have the chance. A joyful, unabashedly hippie, lefty, DIY, spectacle-filled experience, MayDay has left its mark on the Twin Cities as an art event that has brought hope to crowds since the end of the Vietnam War. For this upcoming 45th annual MayDay, add some flowers to your hair, wear a spring outfit, dust your face with glitter, and bid adieu to a wonderful parade, pageant, and festival.

Best Bookstore (New)

Birchbark Books and Native Arts
2115 W. 21st St., Minneapolis
612-374-4023
birchbarkbooks.com

Nestled quaintly by the Lake of the Isles, independent neighborhood bookshop Birchbark has a little bit of everything, no matter your tastes. Their expertly curated selection includes a wide array of topical nonfiction and noteworthy fiction titles, while placing a special emphasis on Native American authors and artwork. With an elementary school across the street, the cozy store provides an inviting place for young readers to discover the vast, wondrous worlds that exist between the covers of books. Birchbark is owned by local author Louise Erdrich, and her bookshop is a place where a love of good literature is proudly celebrated and encouraged, fostering a welcoming community that goes well beyond the walls of the store.

Readers' Choice: Wild Rumpus

Best Bookstore (Used)

Cream & Amber
1605 Mainstreet, Hopkins
952-595-5640
creamandamber.com

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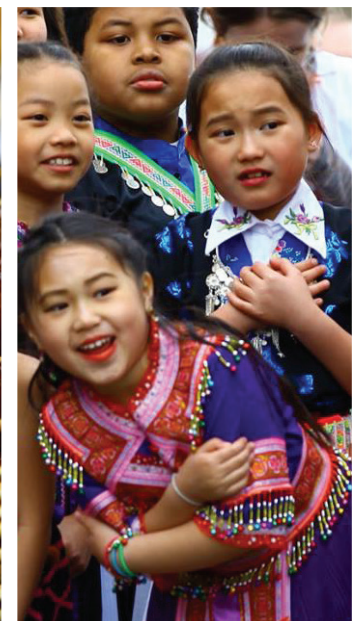
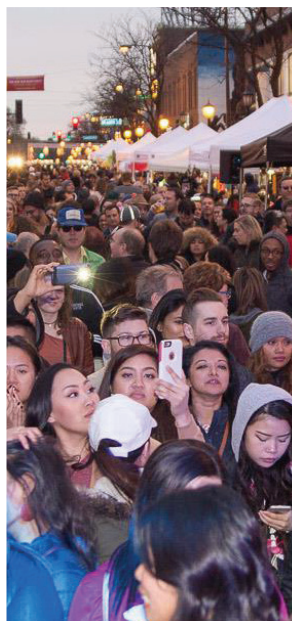
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and house wines. It's a genius move, honestly, since who doesn't want to unwind solo or with friends over a good beverage with plenty of books for browsing? Minimalist shelves line the walls, showcasing each genre of book like a work of art. Once your mind is sated and your books selected, satisfy your hunger with a panini or baked good.

Readers' Choice: Half Price Books

Best Author

Marlon James

penguinrandomhouse.com

Minnesota is blessed with a load of fine authors, but none orbit quite so high as Marlon James. The Macalester professor is among the biggest names in literature these days. His 700-page epic, *A Brief History of Seven Killings*, won the prestigious Man Booker Prize. And his latest novel, *Black Leopard, Red Wolf*—the first installment in a trilogy he calls an "African *Game of Thrones*"—has been celebrated everywhere, including the New Yorker and the cover of the New York Times Book Review. Though locally James faces heated competition from the likes of Louise Erdrich and Julie Schumacher, no one's quite lighting up the literary world like Minnesota's maestro of the epic.

Best Book (Fiction)

Dreadful Young Ladies and Other Stories by Kelly Barnhill

workman.com/imprints/algonquin

In *Dreadful Young Ladies and Other Stories*, Minneapolis native and St. Kate's

alum Kelly Barnhill takes readers into the dark recesses of female minds. Barnhill's expertly woven tales prominently feature feisty characters who rebel against convention, and some even defy the laws of physics. Downright unladylike behavior runs rampant on these pages: A widow takes up with Sasquatch, two girls accuse their pregnant stepmother of murdering and dismembering their biological mother, and a taxidermist makes himself a new wife. Supernatural twists, ghosts that communicate from beyond the grave, and cross-species love add to the strange, dreamy atmosphere of the book. The Midwestern landscape—with all its insects, prairies, and woodlands—becomes an additional foreboding element. If you enjoy being transported to otherworldly realms, Barnhill's collection is your next great read.

Best Book (Nonfiction)

The Infamous Harry Hayward

by Shawn Francis Peters

upress.umn.edu

Rewind to a cold night in 1894 when a lakeside carriage ride in southwest Minneapolis turned tragic and a young dressmaker named Kittie Ging was found murdered. Playboy Harry Hayward, who lived in the same Ozark Flats apartment building as Ging, was quickly identified as a suspect. As the investigation and subsequent trial unfolded, more of the mischievous bachelor's misdeeds came to light, including womanizing, insurance fraud, and gambling. There were

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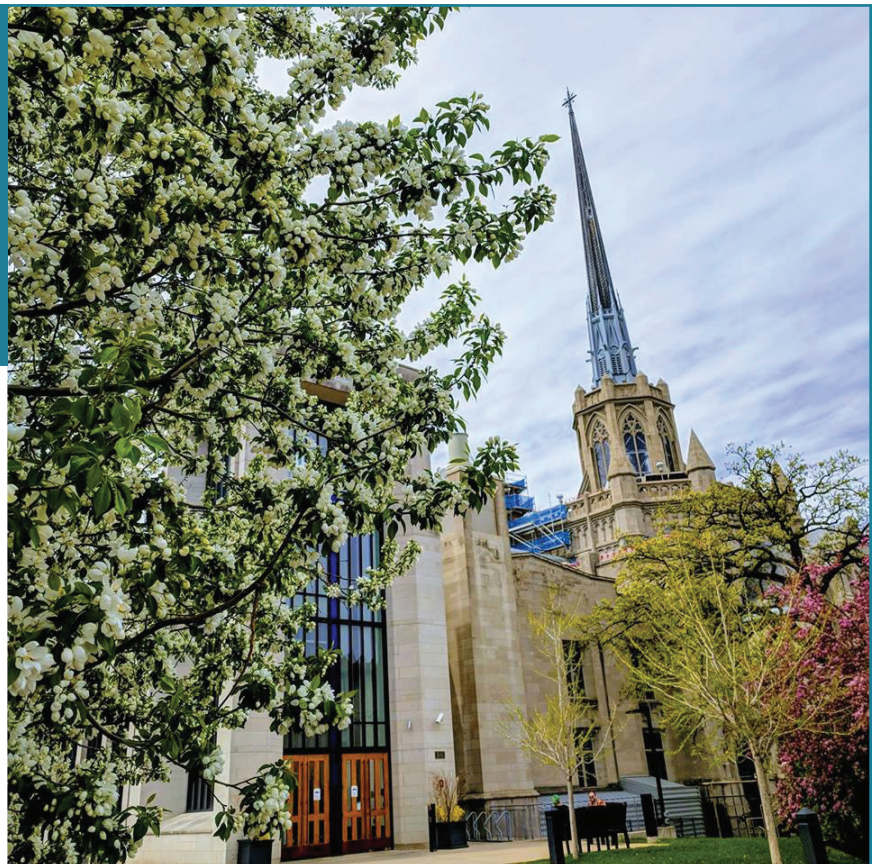
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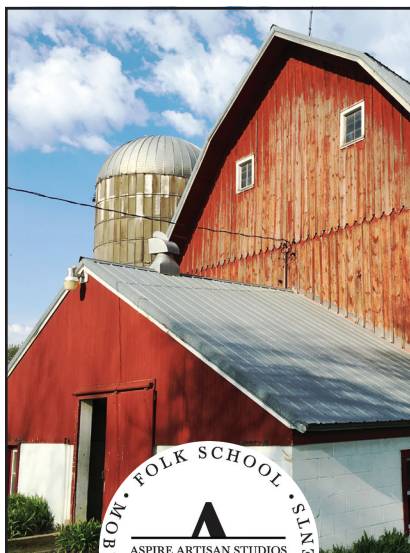
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ARTS and CULTURE

even claims that Hayward was a powerful hypnotist. The case took bizarre twists and turns, and ultimately ended with Hayward's execution by hanging. To recreate the dialogue and dramatic scenes of what was the hottest local news story of its day, Peters pulls from archives, trial transcripts, and press coverage. The result is a thrilling page-turner that's almost too shocking to believe—but you can believe it.

Best Fashion Event

Minneapolis Vintage Market
mplsvintagemarket.com

The Twin Cities area is home to a plethora of local vintage dealers who scour estate sales, thrift stores, and garage sales to bring you the best second-hand fashions. The Minneapolis Vintage Market brings them together once a month in various locations all around the metro—sometimes the shopping takes place at an event space, such as Machine Shop, others times at a brewery or taproom, such as Sociable Cider Werks. Shoppers can peruse wares from a ton of vendors all in one place, while vendors can make important connections with fellow vintage enthusiasts. As Minneapolis Vintage Market keeps getting bigger and busier, they've added an "early bird" shopping option for diehard fans who don't want to battle the crowds. We can't wait to see where it goes next, and what treasures we'll find.

Best Fashion Designer

Hackwith Design House
 550 Vandalia St., Ste. 314
 St. Paul
hackwithdesignhouse.com

Consumers are becoming increasingly interested in where their clothes come from, how they're made, and what happens to them when they're discarded. Hackwith Design House knows and supports this. Since 2010, Hackwith has been selling ethically made, built-to-last pieces that still look modern, fashionable, and interesting, even branching out into gowns and swimwear. The company also offers many of its signature pieces in plus sizes, creating an inclusive space where fashion is for everyone. More recently, Hackwith introduced the Sustain Shop; if you've got HDH pieces you don't wear anymore, send them back and they'll either be mended and resold or turned into something new, reducing waste and giving your clothing new life.

Readers' Choice: Tess + Tricia

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Photo: Alice Gebura

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- 6/22 Mason Jennings
- 6/23 Keb' Mo' with special guest Jontavious Willis
- 6/26 Béla Fleck & The Flecktones

JULY

- 7/2 Dark Star Orchestra
- 7/3 Jonny Lang
- 7/14 Pop 2000 Tour - Hosted by Lance Bass of *NSYNC
Featuring O-Town, Aaron Carter & Ryan Cabrera
- 7/19 Rosanne Cash
- 7/20 Tower of Power
- 7/22 Guster
- 7/23 Belle and Sebastian
- 7/24 The Psychedelic Furs with special guest James
Conor Oberst

AUGUST

- 8/2 Steve Earle & The Dukes with special guest
The Mastersons
- 8/9 Mat Kearney
- 8/10 Marc Cohn
- 8/24 Josh Ritter
- 8/25 Dave Koz with Kenny Lattimore, Rick Braun,
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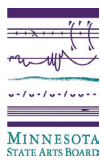
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Best Vocalist

Dua Saleh

duasaleh.bandcamp.com

Rappers sing, singers rap—let's face it, it's 2019, and nestling stodgily in a single genre is so 20th century. So it's no wonder that this Sudanese-born St. Paul vocalist also has a more notable flow than plenty of critically touted MCs. Dua landed in fourth place in City Pages' 2018 Picked to Click poll, and since then released a remarkable EP, *Nūr*, largely crafted by the increasingly high-profile local producer Psymun, which displays a voice that's by turns playful, assertive, acerbic, and questioning, but always luxuriating in its multiplicitous possibilities.

Best Songwriter

Dessa

dessawander.com

Dessa's words were celebrated throughout 2018, as her book *My Own Devices* was published to wide acclaim. But that shouldn't overshadow her songwriting; her latest album, *Chime*, featured lyrics that were as meaningful and profound as always. Throughout her solo career, whether praising the undaunted resolution involved in being both the phoenix and the ash in "5 Out of 6," or describing the challenge of being accepted and finding a true home in "Skeleton Key," Dessa has always spoken honestly about both her intimate struggles and her personal triumphs.

Best Live Band

Gay Witch Abortion

gaywitchabortion.bandcamp.com

Once you hear the music of Gay Witch Abortion, the band name makes twisted sense. The Minneapolis duo—singer Jesse Bottomley on guitar, Shawn Walker on drums—antagonizes the listener, with Bottomley's power-drill riffs and Walker's cacophonous rhythms combining to create an all-consuming wall of noise; listening is the musical equivalent of staring directly into the sun. Gay Witch Abortion have been around the Twin Cities for more than a decade, and it's easy to take the band for granted, but every time they perform they remind us how much harder they rock than everyone else.

Best Album

Double Negative by Low

Low's 12th studio album is the sound of the world coming apart at the seams—and

of the Duluth trio trying to put everything back together again. With the help of producer BJ Burton, Low reassembled sonic fragments into songs that echo the delicate fragility of modern life. "Always trying to work it out," Mimi Parker and Alan Sparhawk repeatedly sing in harmony on one of the album's many high points, suggesting that there aren't any easy answers to the difficult questions Low asks.

Readers' Choice:

***Bambi* by Hippo Campus**

Best Single

"Nothing Gets Me High"
by Bad Bad Hats

"Nothing Gets Me High" is so relaxed it wouldn't be surprising to learn that Bad Bad Hats were actually high when they recorded it. The track's glance back at the anxious euphoria of young love draws you in, while the shuffling beat echoes how your pulse races when you see your first crush at that house party. And Kerry Alexander sings with the maturity of someone who knows she made a good choice leaving her early love behind, though she still doesn't regret giving up her heart.

Best EP

Sleep Receiver by Cult of Lip

The psychedelic shoegaze of Cult of Lip's bristling new EP, *Sleep Receiver*, recalls the untamed early days of Sonic Youth and Dinosaur Jr. The Minneapolis trio has come a long way since forming out of the ashes of VATS in 2016, churning through five songs in just over 16 minutes and offering a reminder that getting lost in loud, heavy rock is the kind of timeless pursuit that will never go out of style.

Best Music Compilation

Dismembered & Unarmed

After exploring the effects of white supremacy on the body in *My Grandmother's Hands*, Resmaa Menakem sought the assistance of veteran MC/activist I Self Devine to create a musical companion to that 2017 book. The result, featuring some of the Twin Cities' most notable and politically committed musicians—including Metasota, the Lioness, Brother Ali, Jayanthi Kyle, Lady Midnight, Sarah White and members of Astralblak—is unlike any compilation of Minnesota music released before it, notable not just for its focus and its intensity, but for its deep artistry.

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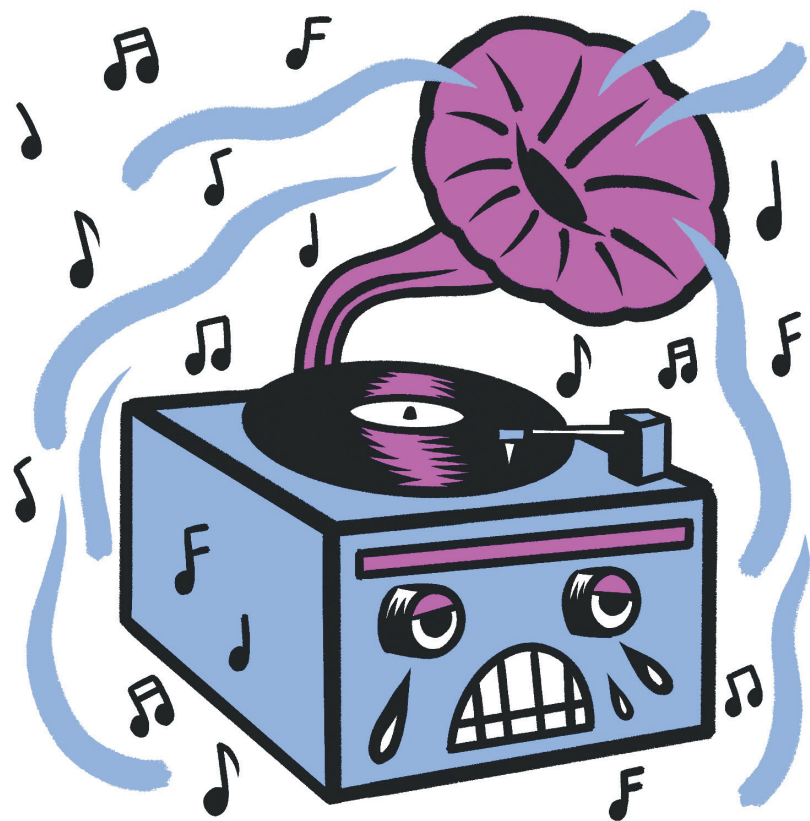
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Best Album Art

Sasa by Maria Isa

Maria Isa appears on the cover of her 2018 album, *Sasa*, as a ghostly image super-imposed three times, in blue, red, and yellow, to represent herself and the music's two inspirations: her mother and grandmother. She's dressed in the style of Atabey, the fertility goddess of the indigenous Taíno of the Caribbean, alongside an item of traditional beadwork by Agnes Louis and Luz Maria Gonzalez in the same three colors. The singer and MC designed the album art herself, and it's not only visually striking, but it reinforces the album's themes of cross-generational solidarity and drawing strength from your heritage.

Best Record Label

Forged Artifacts

We last named Forged Artifacts our Best Record Label in 2013, just a year after Matt Linden formed his cassette-centric imprint. Since then, our Best Of issue has celebrated two of the label's compilations and countless bands who released albums on Forged Artifacts, including this year's Best Rock Band, Scrunchies. But the more prominent names on the label roster only tell half the story. Forged Artifacts released 18 cassettes in 2019, some from groups that might be unfamiliar to

even regular local show-goers, but who make the kind of solid, inventive music that helps hold a scene together, and is worth exploring further.

Best Song to Have Sex To

"Booty 3000" by Dizzy Fae

"You wanna buy me things," Dizzy Fae declares, and if you didn't to start with, you just might after she issues a series of moans and whispers. Unlike a lot of "let us undress and make sexual congress" tunes, this one's playful, embodying Fae's utter confidence in her ability to change someone's life with a single well-timed look. "You think you met your wife," she hisses over a bumpy little beat, setting up the chorus: "Play with my booty and tug on my hair." And we're inclined to think this (very) openly queer 20-year-old provocateur, who's opened for Lizzo (among others) gets what she wants.

Best Song to Cry To

"Fountain of Youth" by Why Khaliq

Why Khaliq has never shied away from demonstrating emotional vulnerability when he's on the mic. But even by the prolific St. Paul rapper's standards, this cut from his five-track 2018 EP *Clearwater* is raw. "Tired of us sleeping on



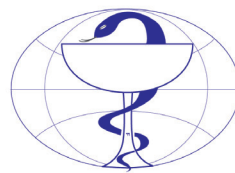
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Chris Koza Album Release
w. *The Twins of Franklin*

Saturday, Apr. 27 || 11:00 pm
Love 2 the 9's A Celebration of the
Music of Prince

Sunday, Apr. 28
TEDxMinneapolis

CINEMA

Thursday, Apr. 18 || 7:00 pm
Fight Club (1999) Digital

Saturday Matinee, Apr. 20 || 11:00 am
Finding Nemo (2003) Digital

Sunday, Apr. 21 || 4:00 pm & 7:30 pm
Purple Rain (1984)
35mm Presentation

Thursday, Apr. 25 || 7:30 pm
Raising Arizona (1987) Digital
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couches/Moving through houses/Losing my mind or sumn',” he rhymes with the world-weariness of a young man who’s just begun to feel older than his years. And whether you’re at the same stage of life as Khaliq or just sympathetically recalling when you were, that’s a feeling that’ll choke the toughest of us up.

Best Cover Song

“Beg Your Parton”
by the Von Tramps

As the title’s probably tipped you off, this isn’t a straight cover of “Jolene,” though it starts out that way, with singer Jenna Enemy slowly proceeding through a chorus of the Dolly Parton classic, accompanied by just an electric guitar and the simulated old-timey crackle of a needle on vinyl. Then the Minneapolis four-piece hits the accelerator and revs up into a hardcore chorus of “If you want him, you can have him,” with Enemy warning Dolly Parton’s awe-inspiring man-accumulator that the dude is worthless and concluding, “I’ll find a better man while you take out your trash.”

Best Earworm

“Bad Habit” by Your Smith

Caroline Smith celebrated her self-rechristening in 2018 as Your Smith with a four-song EP highlighted by this title track, written in L.A. with the songwriting team Nicky Davey. The verses offer a breathy vocal over a soulful backbeat and soft-focus keyboards, but what snags your

memory cells is that way Smith stretches out the “a” in that titular “bad” on the chorus. Fitting that a song with lyrics that reference addiction—to cigarettes, to alcohol, to love—should be so hard to shake, though compulsive listening to Your Smith’s music is one habit you shouldn’t try to break.

Best Hip-Hop Verse

“Pay Phone” by Muja Messiah

“The city’s ours/From the titty bars/To the Toys ‘R’ Us/The city’s us,” Muja boasts over a soulful Emazin beat, and he’s just getting started there. This track was recorded as a duo with OG Grip (called—what else?—MuOg) and the Minneapolis rap veteran, whose skills develop new nuances each year, goes on to spit some of his most intricate lyrics, switching up his flow and tossing in internal rhymes. He doesn’t just namecheck Henry Ford, drug smuggler Boston George, and ’80s R&B singer Al B. Sure!—he somehow convinces you their names rhyme.

Best Rock Band

Scrunchies

scrunchies.bandcamp.com

Scrunchies exploded on the scene with some volatile live performances in early 2018. Then their full-length debut, *Stunner*, arrived that summer with all the force of a damn steamroller. Kitten Forever’s Laura Larson assembled an indie-rock dream team for Scrunchies, with Bree Meyer of Double Grave and

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Danielle Cusack of Tony Peachka and Bruise Violet, and the band's raw punk speaks of the joys and frustrations of a touring musician's life as well as day-to-day struggles with mental health.

Readers' Choice: Hippo Campus

Best Metal Band

Buried Above Ground
[buriedabovegroundofficial.
bandcamp.com](http://buriedabovegroundofficial.bandcamp.com)

The Crown, the 2018 EP from Minneapolis death-metal savages Buried Above Ground, is a virtual beheading. The six-song EP blitzes with pulverizing drums, mad-dog riffs, and singer Eric McMahon's demonic vocals, leading to an unquestionable conclusion: Buried Above Ground are the new heavy metal sovereigns of the Twin Cities. In February, we learned that McMahon will leave the band, so the future of that reign is an open question. But even if Buried Above Ground called it quits tomorrow, they would certainly be remembered for the trail of gore they left behind.

Best R&B Artist

Astralblak
astralblak.com

"R&B" feels like a narrow term to describe the sound that this renamed collective (originally known as ZuluZuluu) explore on their 2018 album *Seeds*. But the old

Minneapolis Sound was never simply straight-up R&B, so why should the new one be? Proper-T, Just Nine, MMYKK, Elliott, and Greg Grease serve up electronic ripples, soulful improvisations, spacey beats, and incisive rhymes to forge an Afrofuturist groove that rises from many strands of black music—funk, hip-hop, jazz, and, yes, R&B.

Readers' Choice: Lizzo

Best Jazz Artist

Javier Santiago
javersantiagomusic.com

Javier Santiago first made his mark in the Twin Cities as a teen piano prodigy; then jazz titan Dave Brubeck hand-picked him for a special program that exposed the pianist to a broader world of notable national musicians. Several of these new acquaintances guest on Santiago's 2018 breakthrough, *Phoenix*, an album that demonstrates his mastery of jazz styles and idioms, but also incorporates Santiago's own electronic beats, revealing the young pianist as a bridge between past and future.

Best Hip-Hop Artist

Dem Atlas
rhymesayers.com/artists/dematlas

Dem Atlas' *Bad Actress* ushers in a new phase of Twin Cities hip-hop, linking the



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future of its sound with its celebrated past, as Ant's deft production varies retro hooks with genre-blending innovation. Grimy, old-school beats mesh with rock-tinged riffs on "Tomorrow Party" and "Never Belonged," while soulful excursions like "Born Yesterday" sit alongside the raw, vulnerable gospel of "Runnin' Back," offering an unguarded look at the mental, physical, and social struggles of a modern artist.

Readers' Choice: Lizzo

Best Hip-Hop Producer

Big Cats

bigcatsbeats.com

Boundaries don't intimidate Spencer Wirth-Davis. The producer/composer otherwise known as Big Cats has become a ubiquitous presence in the Twin Cities music world because he refuses to belong solely to any one genre or any one scene. He's worked with everyone from P.O.S to Haley to Eric Mayson, lending his hard-bodied, sample-happy edge to artists across disciplines. But Big Cats is at the height of his powers when pairing with an MC and getting buckwild on an 808. That's when Cats really throws down the gauntlet for his partners, prompting them to rise to his level. For the best example of this to date, see his 2018 Guante collaboration *War Balloons*.

Best Club DJ

Bryan Gerrard

Any DJ who regularly plays the same club nights needs to be reliable—setting the tone, getting and/or keeping the floor going, throwing in surprises that buoy rather than jar. As one of the residents of Honey's first-Friday dance-music standard-bearer House Proud (alongside promoter Jeff Swiff), Bryan Gerrard is a model DJ resident—modest but substantial, always different but always the same. You know the music he'll play will be soulful, but that can mean it samples "No Diggity" as easily as it flaunts its disco roots. Maybe he's played a bad set somewhere, but we haven't encountered one yet.

Readers' Choice: Shannon Blowtorch

Best Event Promoter

Intellephunk

Last April, veteran local techno DJ and promoter Steven Seuling, a.k.a. Centrifig, dusted off the name Intellephunk, the banner under which he first started throwing parties in 1998, for an instantly storied

20th anniversary party in a cavernous warehouse space. Since then, Intellephunk has been bringing in some of the best DJ talent in America for special one-off events at venues like Rogue in downtown Minneapolis. Most impressive yet was I Like to Party, the New Year's Day bash at the Pourhouse, co-promoted with Milwaukee's Drop Bass Network—a balm in the midst of a harsh winter.

Best Band to Break Up

Tony Peachka

tonypeachka.bandcamp.com

When Melissa Jones set off for Colorado last summer, two great Minneapolis bands folded. (If we had a "Second-Best Band to Break Up," Jones' other group, Wetter USA, would have it on lock.) Her bandmates in this wisecracking yet heart-baring indie-punk quartet continue contributing to our local soundtrack: guitarist Stephanie Jo Murck in Sass, bassist Danielle Cusack in Bruise Violet and Scrunchies, and drummer Hayley Briasco with her electronic project Kim Tee. But the way their talents combined in this context will be missed. Already is, in fact. At least we've got the five songs of last July's *Goodbye Tony* to remember them by.

Best Acoustic Performer

J.S. Ondara

jsondara.com

Born in Kenya, singer/guitarist J.S. Ondara fell under the spell of Bob Dylan's music as a young man and was determined to journey to his idol's birth state. After settling in Minnesota in 2013, Ondara struggled to be heard for several years, but with his 2019 debut album, *Tales of America*, he's drawn nationwide attention. Ondara's finely wrought impressions of his new home offer an immigrant's unique perspective on the gap between the American dream and reality, and he brings each to vivid life with his sharp, plaintive tenor.

Best Band Name

Bob Ross Mob Boss

bobrossmobboss.bandcamp.com

Imagine this: Brillo-headed art instructor breaks bad, starts strong-arming local business owners and diddling gumars. It's just such a TV-addled fantasy that inspired St. Paul punks Braden Fischer, Aaron Frederick, Cory Grider, and Holland Hardie to name their queer emocore band Bob Ross Mob Boss. The band's



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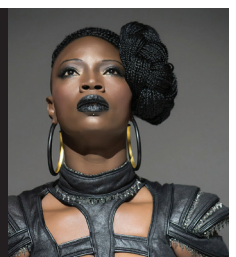
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chief piece of merch? Branded hot sauce. This must be what happens when you start smoking happy little trees instead of painting them. The A.V. Club's sure to include Bob Ross Mob Boss in their 2019 Year in Band Names—if they know what's good for them, that is.

Best New Band

Last Import

lastimport.bandcamp.com

Last Import just put out their self-titled debut full-length in February, a collection of rowdy surf-punk that lives up to the promise of their excellent 2018 EP, *Songs for Adam*. The Minneapolis trio, whose music echoes Sleater-Kinney, the Clash, and Heart, got its start at the She Rock She Rock retreat for girls, and seem poised to carry on the tradition of the Riot Grrrl groups who helped pave their way.

Readers' Choice: Mae Simpson

Best Stage Style

Meghan Kreidler of Kiss the Tiger Kiss the Tiger's latest album, *Let Me Bleed*, captures the band's sound, swaggering and raw. All that's missing? Singer Meghan Kreidler's stylish stage presence, which captures that mix of premeditation and recklessness that's the essence of rock 'n' roll. She mixes in a little Patti Smith, a little Mick Jagger, and a whole lot of Meghan Kreidler, trying on various stage poses, then tossing them away like she's deciding what outfit to wear. And she's a snappy dresser to boot.

Best Reunion

Sweet JAP

After a 14-year absence, Sweet JAP reminded everyone last September just how much we missed their wild presence and high-octane punk, and the band were clearly relishing being on stage together once again at the Turf Club. But this wasn't just a reunion show: Sweet JAP were also celebrating the release of a new album, a collection of rarities and unreleased songs called *Be My Venus*. For one night, at least, it was like 2004 all over again.

Best Music Controversy

Humans Win! Studio bought
By BJ Burton

It'd typically be cause for celebration that a noteworthy producer like BJ Burton, known for his work with Bon Iver and

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Low, had decided to open a recording studio in northeast Minneapolis. But Burton's arrival pushed out Humans Win! studio operator Lance Conrad, who spent the last 10 years recording local and national acts in the same space. Conrad had invested time, money, and energy into the studio, expecting to buy it from the building's owners. But they instead sold to Burton, leaving Conrad to find a new home for his production company and hanging a dark cloud over Burton's arrival.

Best Musical Act of Protest

Lizzo's flute clapback

Who would've guessed Lizzo's first real controversy would come about because of... the flute? And yet there we were, in late 2018, with some online rando accusing the Houston/Detroit/Minneapolis R&B/hip-hop goddess of faking her ability to blow some tunes on a metal pipe. Lizzo shut this down with a tweeted video of her clearly manipulating the instrument to make high-pitched sounds. We don't know what the accusation she'd faked it says about the internet (nothing good), but we're positive Lizzo can play both the flute and her haters for laughs.

Best Selling Out

Capital One uses Prince's "Let's Go Crazy" in a commercial. Any hope that the Prince estate would treat the Purple One's legacy with care and respect went out the window in September, when we first heard "Let's Go Crazy" in the Capital One ad that premiered during the Emmys. But this moment also galvanized fans in their collective outrage, so we turned up Prince's music to drown out this cash-grab, knowing that there was no way that weak commercial was ever going to tarnish these songs that help us get through this thing called life.

Best Music Video Director

Endlessvision

Dylan Niemela is a tireless hustler. As Endlessvision, the photographer/vid-eographer has put out almost a hundred local music videos in the past two years, earning a fierce reputation in the hip-hop community. Endlessvision's work is immediately recognizable for its deep saturation and aggressive cuts, attributes that have helped locals like Bobby Raps, Baby Shel, and Metasota level up to big-industry threats. His videos don't need a

plot—once Niemela squares his lens on you, the audience isn't gonna be able to look away.

Best Music Video

"Monsters" by Tony Bones and Big Wiz ft. JellyRoll

Though Mercies May established himself as the Twin Cities' premier music video director back in 2017, his master stroke didn't come until last year. "Monsters" opens with a verse from JellyRoll, and May took inspiration the Nashville scum-rapper's Gremlins reference and spun out a miniature horror film. What starts as a celebratory evening at the strip club quickly turns into a frightfest, something like a From Dusk till Dawn sequel directed by David Cronenberg. Ryan Schaddelee whips up Hollywood-quality special effects as Bones and Wiz beast up their respective turns on the mic.

Best Local Music Podcast

The Wisemen Show

soundcloud.com/the-wisemen-podcast

Jake Faircloth and Joe Fabiano bill their podcast as the "#1 source for all things hip-hop" in the Twin Cities, which is indeed a very hip-hop boast. But they back it up with excellent guests ranging from bona fide legends like Redman and Bizzy Bone to important figures on the local scene like Taylor J and Rich Garvey. And though their conversations can be freewheeling, they can also credibly tackle serious topics like Black Lives Matter or, recently, the legacy of murdered rapper and activist Nipsey Hussle, a subject they dedicated an entire episode to.

Best Music Festival

Big Turn Music Fest

bigturnmusicfest.com

We've come to think of summer as festival season, but this weekend of building "community through music" in Red Wing avoids the competition by fearlessly staking its claim to the month its website dubs "Feburrrary." In its second year, a very reasonable \$55 two-day pass allowed you to experience 164 mostly Minnesotan artists, ranging from established acts like Dessa and Charlie Parr to local up-and-comers, performing at 21 venues around town, including the historic Sheldon Theatre—and to learn that there's a lot more to that southeastern Minnesota city than boots and slot machines.

Readers' Choice: Basilica Block Party

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Best Concert (Local)

Hippo Campus and Now, Now at Palace Theatre (11/23/18)

This show highlighted just what's so appealing about two of the Twin Cities' best young bands—songs that thread the familiar joys and frustrations of young love around fresh hooks and choruses. Hippo Campus were riding high from a successful U.S. tour in support of their second album, *Bambi*, while the indie-pop act Now, Now had released the best record of their career, *Saved*. Hippo Campus' rabid Minnesota fanbase sang along loudly to the band's effervescent anthems while Now, Now rose to the occasion with a vibrant set (featuring City Pages' 2018 Best Single, "SGL") that charmed a new batch of fans.

Readers' Choice: Lizzo at Palace Theater

Best Concert (Touring)

David Byrne at Orpheum Theatre (5/17/18 and 5/18/18)

Performing with an 11-piece backing band on a stage free of amps, cords, monitors, and mixers, in a stark white setting that looked more like a museum installation than a rock concert, David Byrne presented one of his grandest live spectacles yet at the Orpheum last May. Old Talking Heads favorites like "This Must Be the Place (Naïve Melody)," "Once in a Lifetime," and "Burning Down the House" sounded as vital and timely as ever, while songs from his new album, *American Utopia*, came across as fresh

and buoyant additions to his catalog.

Readers' Choice: Lizzo at Icehouse

Best Concert Venue

Fitzgerald Theater
10 E. Exchange St., St. Paul
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fitzgeraldtheater.publicradio.org

The intimate 1,058-seat theater provides excellent sightlines and sound within its cozy confines, and over the course of its 109-year history, the Fitz has hosted some grand productions. First Avenue's recent purchase of the theater from Minnesota Public Radio ensures that St. Paul's oldest surviving theater space is in good hands going forward, and they've booked a terrific musical to showcase their new acquisition, including *Spiritualized*, Lucinda Williams, Neko Case, and Lucius.

Readers' Choice:

First Avenue/7th St. Entry

Best Venue to Open

Mortimer's
2001 Lyndale Ave. S., Minneapolis
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mortimersbar.com

Mortimer's didn't "open" last year, of course, but the Whittier joint was indeed reborn under new ownership. An even bigger deal than a welcome menu overhaul was the establishment of a 250-capacity performance space. Live music has been scarce in the greater Uptown area for years, of course, but location isn't all the new Mortimer's space has to offer—it's a snug but



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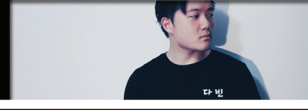
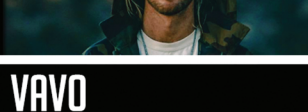


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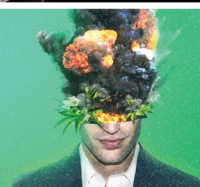
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Best Venue to Close

Christensen's Big V's Saloon
1567 University Ave. W., St. Paul
651-645-8472
bigvssaloon.com

This St. Paul dive became ground zero for a wild rock scene in the '00s, thanks to a mix of local acts like Malachi Constant and STNNG and likeminded touring bands brought in by booker Ryan O'Rourke. Long after its glory days, Big V's soldiered on valiantly as a music venue until the upheaval in the revitalized and/or gentrifying Midway area finally brought its rockin' days to a close with a pair of rowdy farewell shows at the end of February. It immediately reopened as the Midway Saloon; we'll soon see what happens next.

Best Jazz Club

Vieux Carré
408 St. Peter St., St. Paul
651-291-2715
vieux-carre.com

Like any great music venue, the Artists' Quarter is irreplaceable. So Vieux Carré, which moved into the basement of St. Paul's Hamm building in 2014 about a year after the beloved AQ vacated it, has established its own identity. Vieux Carré has hardly limited its calendar to jazz, but that music is at the core of the sound and identity of a club that justifiably touts its "speakeasy" vibe. Situated just across from the Palace, and down the street from Amsterdam and the Fitz, Vieux Carré sits near the center of St. Paul's increasingly vibrant nightlife.

Best Place to See a Concert with Kids

Weesner Amphitheater,
Minnesota Zoo
13000 Zoo Blvd., Apple Valley
952-431-9200
mnzoo.org

Every year the Minnesota Zoo books a slate of family-friendly artists, and in this case that innocuous adjective doesn't mean "bland." A trip to the 1,500-seat Weesner Amphitheater can expose your offspring to culturally substantial entertainment ranging from the New Orleans jazz of Trombone Shorty to the electric blues of Buddy Guy, and it can also expose adults to the fun, kid-centric folk of the Okee Dokee Brothers. There may be an

increasing number of outdoor concert venues in the Twin Cities area, but the zoo remains a special setting for live music.

Readers' Choice: Minnesota Zoo

Best Music Residency

Cactus Blossoms at Turf Club
Seeing the Cactus Blossoms play once a week at Turf Club is a treat in itself, but the duo (brothers Page Burkum and Jack Torrey) also bring along talented support acts for their annual January residency. Locals Frankie Lee, Alpha Consumer, Under Violet, and Zoo Animal all took part this year, which helped make one of the worst months of the winter a lot more bearable. Cactus Blossoms' glorious country songs sound lovely in any weather, but their wistful tunes really hit home during those cold, dark January nights.

Best Karaoke

Uptown VFW
2916 Lyndale Ave. S., Minneapolis
612-823-6233
uptownvfw.org

Condos come and coffee shops go, but the Uptown VFW has held fast among the gentrifiers, and every night of the week, from 9 p.m. till close, its karaoke rewards those in the know. Some participants offer presentation, others performance, still others sheer will, fueled by a throat of gravel and a gut of gin. But they all hold the stage as though it belongs to them, and they're all a treat to behold as they discover their personal anthem from within one of the deepest songbooks in the city.

Readers' Choice: Vegas Lounge

Best Record Store Day Location

Electric Fetus
2000 Fourth Ave. S., Minneapolis
612-870-9300
electricfetus.com

Electric Fetus has been throwing big bashes since RSD started in 2008, consistently featuring a smart selection of locals like Jeremy Messersmith, Frankie Lee, and Greg Grease alongside national acts like They Might Be Giants and Black Angels. There are also treats from Glam Doll Donuts, Peace Coffee, and local food trucks, as well as the best selection of Record Store Day releases in the Twin Cities, ranging from limited Third Man Records pressings to colored vinyl from local bands. While the line in front of the store can be daunting, the party inside is worth the wait.



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TALK of the TOWN

Best Sports Team

St. Thomas Football

Minnesota's best football team doesn't play in downtown Minneapolis. Its home is across the river on Cretin Avenue in St. Paul. That's where you'll find O'Shaughnessy Stadium, home to the St. Thomas Tommies, arguably the state's most dominant team in any sport. Over the past decade, the Tommies have gone a stunning 110-17. They've been ranked in the top five nationally in nine of the past 10 years. Though most Twin Cities sports fans may be unaware of this dynasty, hardcore football fans certainly aren't. When St. Thomas played rival St. John's at Target Field two years ago, 37,000 people showed up, doubling the previous Division III attendance record. The best part of the deal: Tickets can be had for less than \$10, and no one will ask you to pay for a seat license.

Readers' Choice: Minnesota Lynx

Best Coach

Bruce Boudreau

Minnesota surely has more prominent coaches—think Mike Zimmer or Cheryl Reeve. But both have been blessed with extraordinary talent. Bruce Boudreau's task falls in a far less opulent realm. Before he arrived in St. Paul, Boudreau's teams won their divisions eight times in his first 10 years as an NHL coach. Yet the Wild are a quintessentially Minnesota team—a starless roster filled with the slightly above average. Boudreau's nonetheless made them a contender every year. Though fans may lament their habit of first-round-and-out playoff performances, he's consistently managed to keep the Wild playing at a level above the team's native talent. It's a testament to the red-faced man behind the bench who, despite an aging roster with little firepower, continues to create a competitive team while sell-out crowds remain the norm.

Readers' Choice: Lindsay Whalen

Best Lynx Player

Maya Moore

Maya Moore, the G.O.A.T.-caliber Lynx forward who still won't turn 30 until June, shocked the WNBA when she abruptly announced she would be taking the 2019 season away from the game for family and faith reasons. But the former league MVP—and four-time WNBA champion as a member of the Lynx—had a preceding season full of even more milestones. She was an All-Star selection for the fifth time and went on to win that game's MVP



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award. She appeared on the cover of Slam magazine, the first woman to do so since Chamique Holdsclaw in 1998. And the list of achievements goes on. Basketball culture in Minnesota—among the most vibrant in the nation right now—will miss her for the time being, but that only means her eventual return will be that much more exciting.

Readers' Choice: Lindsay Whalen

Best Timberwolves Player

Karl-Anthony Towns

The Wolves' 2018-19 season was turbulent, from the midseason trade of Jimmy Butler to the Philadelphia 76ers, to the firing of coach Tom Thibodeau, to the team's abysmal road record; they ultimately failed to follow up last season's playoff bid with a second consecutive run to the postseason. More exciting was former league MVP Derrick Rose's resurgence in his first full season with Minnesota, but Karl-Anthony Towns was even better. The 7-foot center continues to grow into the potential the Wolves saw when they made him the NBA's top overall draft pick in 2015. While

earning his second consecutive All-Star Game appearance, KAT posted some of the biggest stat lines in the league game after game, including one seven-outing stretch from late February to early March when he averaged 35.1 points and 14.1 rebounds per night.

Readers' Choice: Karl-Anthony Towns

Best Twins Player

Eddie Rosario

They're a frustrating team, these Minnesota Twins. Ever since they moved to Target Field in 2010, they've offered brief glimmers of hope, only to be dashed by deep dives into mediocrity. One of the few bright spots has been Eddie Rosario. While more-touted prospects like Miguel Sano and Byron Buxton have become intimate with floundering, Rosario has blown past expectations to become the Twins' most consistent hitter. He has 51 homers over the past two seasons. He's also hitting for average and power in the gaps, and playing a solid left field. Though being the best player on the Twins feels like an honor requiring more than a few asterisks,

Rosario is a start in getting the faithful to show up at Target Field this summer.

Readers' Choice: Joe Mauer

Best Vikings Player

Adam Thielen

There's no better rags-to-riches tale in Minnesota sports. The kid from Detroit Lakes goes undrafted out of Minnesota State, then makes the Vikings as a practice squad scrub. Through hard work and sheer force of will, he becomes one of the best receivers in the NFL. This is the story of Adam Thielen. Yet hometown-boy-made-good is only part of the tale. Thielen also sets the gold standard for the working life at any job. He runs exquisite routes, the kind only perfected through relentless practice and attention to detail. And he's arguably developed the best hands in the game, allowing him to overcome the lack of lights-out speed or 6-foot-5 frame preferred by general managers. Yes, Thielen is Minnesota's feel-good story. But the best part is that he earned every last bit of it.

Readers' Choice: Adam Thielen

Best Wild Player

Matt Dumba

Choosing the best Wild player is a bit like selecting the finest diamond at a discount jeweler. None of them are exceptional, though plenty fall in the range of "pretty nice." Perhaps the one gem that could someday truly shine is Matt Dumba. When he first came to Minnesota six years ago, he was prone to surges of brilliance with matching splashes of boneheaded recklessness. But Dumba has steadily improved in his own zone, and his slapshot is becoming one of the scariest in the league. On a team whose trajectory is decidedly headed in the wrong direction, Dumba offers a dash of excitement—and the best bet to maintain joy in St. Paul.

Readers' Choice: Zach Parise

Best College Athlete

Kenisha Bell

After a standout freshman season at Marquette, Minneapolis native and Bloomington Kennedy High School alum Kenisha Bell played the last three years

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TALK of the TOWN

of her collegiate basketball career for the Golden Gophers, the guard's senior campaign coming under new coach and ex-Gopher/Lynx hero Lindsay Whalen. Despite a 21-11 record and spending some of December and January ranked as high as 12th in the country, the team did not make the NCAA Tournament come March. Bell continued to shine all year, though, averaging 19.1 points a game, good enough for third-best in the Big Ten Conference. Bonus: She was just drafted by the Lynx!

Best Sports Talk Radio Personality

Carl Gerbschmidt

Gerby is shrouded in mystery. Here's what we know: Every Friday during football season, his slurred and squealy voice can be heard boosting the Green Bay Packers with a conviction that's rivaled only by his hatred for the Vikings. Listeners to Dan Barreiro's KFAN program have a love/hate relationship with the chop-busting resident of Elk Mound, Wisconsin, and constantly speculate about whether he's real or a character. No matter who Carl Gerbschmidt is, the lovably prickly Packer-backer fills a genius role: The heel to exasperated Vikings fans who've never sniffed a Super Bowl, as Gerby endlessly points out.

Best Sports Fan

Bruce McGuire

In February 2018, Bruce McGuire published a post to his Du Nord soccer blog: "Taking a mental break," it read. He'd earned it. McGuire obsessively tracked and analyzed soccer—local, national, global, you name it—for 13 years. He still does on Twitter under the @dunord handle, which recently depicted the large, unmistakably bearded fan taking in a sneak peek of Minnesota United's Allianz Field in St. Paul. Expect Bruce to be a fixture there, so long as matches don't clash with the American national team. If you see Bruce, strike up a chat. He's forgotten more about soccer than most coaches have ever known.

Best Sports Highlight

Jimmy Butler Trade

You know it's been a tough year for Minnesota sports when a player being traded stands out as the one clear highlight. Jimmy Butler had clearly worn out his welcome with the Timberwolves, creating dissension among his teammates by demanding to be traded during the

offseason, plus saying inflammatory things about the organization and his teammates. Adding to the frustration, this current Wolves team was building something promising, qualifying for the playoffs last season for the first time in 14 years. But Butler couldn't handle the fact that this was clearly Karl-Anthony Towns' squad, so he refused to work toward a resolution. After shipping Butler off to the Philadelphia 76ers in November, the Wolves fell back into their losing ways. But the trade (and subsequent firing of head coach/team president Tom Thibodeau) will hopefully be beneficial in the long run.

Best Sportswriter

Courtney Cronin

Let's address the obvious: Cronin is a woman covering an exclusively male sport, and her peers are almost entirely men. That's remarkable for demographic reasons, but any qualifier of "she holds her own!" would be some seriously patronizing bullshit. Cronin simply happens to be one of the best Vikings reporters out there. At ESPN since mid-2017, she's aggressively pounded the beat, churning out a voluminous stream of deeply reported, insight-laden, no-B.S. Vikes coverage. Look no further than her oral history of Minnesota's own Adam Thielen (see also: Best Viking) from last October for evidence of how thoroughly Cronin owns her trade.

Best TV Sportscaster

Marney Gellner

Gellner made history earlier this year, becoming the first woman to call play-by-play Twins games during Spring Training in Fort Meyers, Florida. Is it ridiculous that she's been sequestered to exhibition matches? Without question, but it's still an agonizing lurch toward progress. And good lord, Gellner brings the goods—sharp, quick, deeply informed, funny. "I honestly don't look at myself as a female broadcaster," the North Dakota native told WCCO. "I just consider myself a broadcaster." Here's hoping the Fox Sports North sideline reporter for the Twins, Wolves, and Lynx steals the spotlight more and more.

Readers' Choice: Mark Rosen

Best TV Newsperson

Maury Glover

Maury Glover is an absolute delight; he's folksy storytelling on overdrive. The Fox 9 reporter exudes Midwestern warmth, living up to his station bio: "When we



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want a personal story told, Maury is our guy. After all, who could say no to that smile?" Whether the story is serious or puffy, Glover gives you a comforting dose of humanity. The buttery-voiced newsmen spends his days shining light on others, so it's about time we shine some on him.

Readers' Choice: Jana Shortal

Best TV Station

KARE 11
kare11.com

Of all the local TV news outlets, KARE 11 does the best job sidestepping the often trashy trappings of the format. The NBC affiliate is pure class, with gifted storytellers like Jana Shortal (*Breaking the News*) and Boyd Huppert (*Land of 10,000 Stories*) afforded their own platforms. The graphics are crisp and agreeable, as are the on-air personalities. Nationally, comedy nerds are satisfied with *The Good Place* and *Brooklyn Nine-Nine*, while *SNL* and NBC Sports bring legacy cachet. We won't hold Jimmy Fallon against 'em.

Readers' Choice: KARE 11

Best Radio Personality

Sean McPherson

Sean McPherson is the easiest, breeziest, riffiest DJ on 89.3 the Current. There is no stilted public radio affectation to the *Radio Free Current* host, who also happens to play bass for beloved local hip-hop crew Heiruspecs. McPherson is an engaging presence who approaches music with the energy of a fan, but his observations are doubly informed by being an actual practitioner. If the St. Paul-raised radio personality sounds like he's having fun, it's likely because he really is.

Readers' Choice: Mary Lucia

Best Radio Station

KOOL 108
kool108.iheart.com

Here's the thing about music radio: It's pointless. If you've got a car with an auxiliary jack or Bluetooth, you're already your own DJ, and dammit, you play *all* the jams. But if, for some reason, terrestrial radio is your only option, flip that knob to 107.9 FM. You'll unleash a collection of

corny shout-along bangers from decades past—Ace of Base's "The Sign," Modern English's "I Melt With You," Corey Hart's "Sunglasses at Night." Ya know, fun shit that's also bad. And when the birthday of Baby Jesus approaches, the format shifts to all Christmas, all the time. In terms of nonthreatening familiarity, what more could you possibly want?

Readers' Choice: 89.3 the Current

Best Columnist

Joe Soucheray

Hear us out. We know Joe Soucheray's takes about living in St. Paul and wanting never to leave his garage, lest he encounter an immigrant or a young woman who might not care what he thinks. But! Have you considered the possibility that Soucheray's four-plus decades in the newspaper business (first at the Star Tribune, then the Pioneer Press) have been one man's insanely dedicated performance art? It's the only explanation we can think of, and honestly, we're impressed: To keep coming up with *so many* new bad takes, week in week out, is a massive commitment. We

salute you, Joe, and wish you good luck in that there garage of yours.

Best Podcast

Terrible, Thanks for Asking
apmpodcasts.org/ttfa

Nora McInerney is taking up a quiet revolution about how we deal with pain. She knows plenty of it: After losing her husband, unborn child, and father in a short span, the *Terrible, Thanks for Asking* host publicly channeled her grief into a nonprofit, Still Kickin', and a hit memoir, *It's Okay to Laugh (Crying Is Cool Too)*. On her American Public Media podcast, McInerney takes deeply human, honest, and hilarious dives into struggles and traumas, with healing results for her, the guests, and the listeners. "I don't want small talk," she said on TTFA. "I want the big talk."

Best Commercial

Samuel L. Jackson scoops litter for Angie Craig

It's hard to look back on the days and weeks leading up to the 2018 midterms



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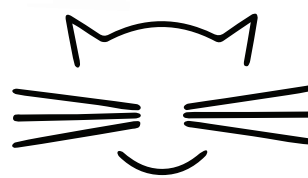
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elections with any kind of clarity, but one thing that stands out through the critical mass of vitriolic, annoying, and all-around terrible campaign ads. In mid-October, movie star Samuel L. Jackson appeared on TV screens, gingerly scooping kitty litter and claiming it's his cross to bear to make sure Eagan Democrat Angie Craig gets elected to Congress. Short, smart, funny, even star-spangled—this ad was everything all of the others weren't. It almost made up for watching Karin Housley's famous hockey player husband awkwardly fist bump her for the 80th time.

Best Politician

Betty McCollum

To a certain extent, she's Minnesota's most invisible politician, neither a ubiquitous media presence nor a self-aggrandizing irritant that seems to magically appear everywhere you look. And that's a good thing. For the past 18 years, U.S. Rep. Betty McCollum has been a consistent progressive vote. Her emphasis is on the home-and-hearth issues of regular people, from education to civil rights, renewable energy to a social approach

that places compassion for others well above corporate needs. At a time when it seems there are just two kinds of politicians—one whose beliefs twist with each shift in the wind, and one whose morals are priced to move for the highest bidder—McCollum offers an old-school option rarely available in the voting booth: She understands that her job is to reflect the values of her constituents, and those values will never be up for sale.

Best Landmark

Minnehaha Bunny
Minnehaha Parkway
and Portland Avenue

Creator Jeff Barber titled this sculpture *Cottontail on the Trail*, but it's colloquially known to locals simply as the Minnehaha Bunny. Installed in 2002, the lounging rabbit is beloved by neighbors, who doll it up with flowers and bows around holidays. Kiddos climb all over it; resting bikers admire it as they sip from the nearby water pump. The Minnehaha Bunny isn't glitzy or challenging—it's just a big-ass bunny that reliably brings smiles to passersby.

Best Construction Project

I-35W

Most Minneapopolitans consider the massive, multi-year re-build of I-35W to be a massive, multi-year headache. They are wrong. Optimistic motorists recognize the opportunities afforded by avoiding that construction-choked interstate; namely, the freedom to rediscover south Minneapolis. Remember the fabulous mansions of Park Avenue? How about the bustling small businesses and restaurants popping up along Chicago? It's been a while since you've brunched on Eat Street or shopped along Lyndale Avenue, so get on that shit! Our smaller thoroughfares transport you through neighborhoods, each rich with their own character. Who needs 55 mph sprints between peeling sound walls?

Best Road

Cecil Newman Lane

The reasons this one-block road rules are twofold. First, it signals the end of the hellish detour around the Lake Street Kmart, mercifully dumping drivers back on to Nicollet Avenue. Excellent Viet-

namese dining options exist to your left (Pho Tau Bay) and your right (Quang). Secondly, the micro-lane is named after Cecil E. Newman, an influential civil rights leader who founded what's now known as the Minnesota Spokesman-Recorder—the state's oldest black-owned newspaper. Does Newman deserve a longer stretch of asphalt? Absolutely, but we're still happy giving props to this one.

Best Parking Lot

TCF Bank Stadium

Major qualification: This award only applies to when the lot is transformed into a shuttle hub for the Minnesota State Fair. During those halcyon weeks, the exorbitant rates applied to parking for Gopher games are snuffed out, rendering the sprawling, stadium-adjacent lots egalitarian launching points for the Great Minnesota Get-Together. There are several shuttle lots scattered around the city, sure, but the anticipatory buzz of gathering around The Bank pre-fair lends this space a nostalgic glow throughout the year. Plus, oh baby, is that asphalt ever *smooth*.



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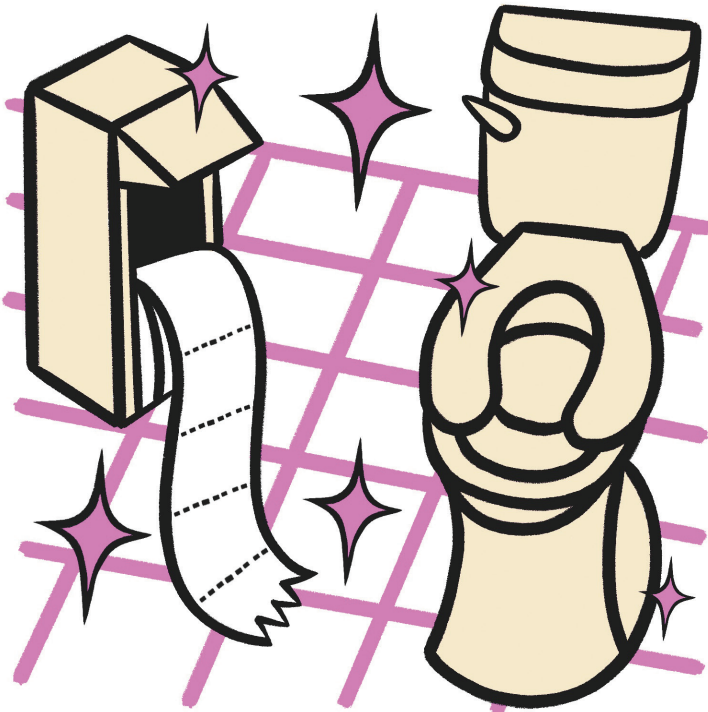


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Best Public Bathroom

Kwik Trip
kwiktrip.com

Don't take our word for it: Last May, gas station app GasBuddy named Kwik Trip's restrooms the very best in Minnesota. We agree wholeheartedly. Every location posts a "pledge" on their bathroom walls to maintain cleanliness, and, anecdotally, they deliver in a major way. Each Kwik Trip bathroom our reporters have relieved themselves in is akin to a urinal cathedral, gleaming to the point where you'd consider scarfing a hotdog off the damn floor. Hats off to this La Crosse, Wisconsin-based chain's commitment to providing world-class pissin' oases.

Best Suburb

Roseville
cityofroseville.com

It isn't the prettiest of suburbs, and it certainly isn't among the most prestigious. But for those priced out of the more glamorous parts of the Twin Cities, this is the place for you. Start with its location, attached to the northern border of St. Paul and just 10 minutes from either downtown. Move on to the affordable price of homes, where a nice place can still be had for the low \$200,000s. Throw in a culture that's far more diverse and progressive than most 'burbs. Then add 32 parks and 67 miles of trails and walkways. You won't be able to impress friends with the cachet of your

address. But you will find a nice, serene, affordable life so elusive in the rest of the Twin Cities.

Best Sign of Spring

Sea Salt Opens
4825 Minnehaha Ave., Minneapolis
612-721-8990
seasalteatery.wordpress.com

Spring can be pretty gross. Receding snow piles revealing a winter's bounty of trash, slushy slurry caking your boots. Not so at Minnehaha Falls in Minneapolis, where warmer temps mean the return of piping-hot seafood delights from Sea Salt. The po' boys, the tacos, the oysters, the beer, the ice cream—they all scream summer in the city. By the time our Best Of issue hits racks, Sea Salt will have already reopened, serving up top-notch treats from the deep in an idyllic location for seven glorious months before returning to hibernation.

Best Place to People-Watch

Como Park Conservatory
1225 Estabrook Dr., St. Paul
651-487-8201
comozooconservatory.org

There's an instinct to walk right through the humid jungles inside the glass dome at Como Park, but if you sit and linger for a while, you'll see first dates, retired couples, out-of-towners, curious kids, and lovers of growing things. Above the peaceful trickle of water fixtures, you'll

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hear adults who are, for the first time in a long time, learning something new about the natural world. Or you'll hear a kid who has only just realized where cinnamon comes from, or one who is discovering he has a favorite flower, or one who's making a wish over a koi pond under the gentle stone eyes of the St. Francis statue. It's the kind of constant motion, like bees visiting flowers, that soothes rather than agitates. Sit back and let it roll by.

Readers' Choice: Minnesota State Fair

Best Local Boy/Girl Made Good

Pete Docter

If you've got kids (or never grew up) you're aware *Toy Story 4* will be one of this year's blockbuster movies. What you might not know is that one of the brains behind that franchise hails from Bloomington, spent one year at the U of M, and describes himself as a "geeky kid from Minnesota who likes to draw cartoons." He is that, but he's also now the second-in-command at Pixar, following a promotion to replace the ousted, #MeToo'd John Lasseter. Docter's teaming up with Jennifer Lee, creator of *Frozen* and new boss at sister studio Walt Disney Animation, forming a staggeringly talented two-headed leadership team. Think back to high school: Maybe the geeks doodling quietly were on to something.

Best Hipster Trend

Growing Up

Scroll through Instagram, and you're going to see plenty of pictures of newly released beers, freshly served organic pizzas, and deadass thirst traps masquerading as posts about workout routines, diets, books of poetry, new jeans, and haircuts. But keep scrolling, because the cool kids are starting to experiment with their weirdest trend yet: maturity. Check how many reformed hipsters are having kids, or buying houses, or getting politically or socially involved—or at least confronting the people who are always wrong. Millennials get blamed for everything. Maybe someday we'll have to blame them for trying to save the world.

Best Power Couple

Mod Sun and Bella Thorne

We're cheating a little here, since it's actually a throuple: Earlier this year, the mostly online, sometimes onstage "personality" Bella Thorne revealed she was dating both Mr. Sun and YouTube "star" Tana Mongeau. If you're this far into this and still don't know who any of these people are, we don't blame you. Just know that Mod is a Bloomington-born hippie rapper; Bella's a "multitalented" actress/model, and everything either one of them does or says winds up on the internet. None of it, not even their work, is interesting.

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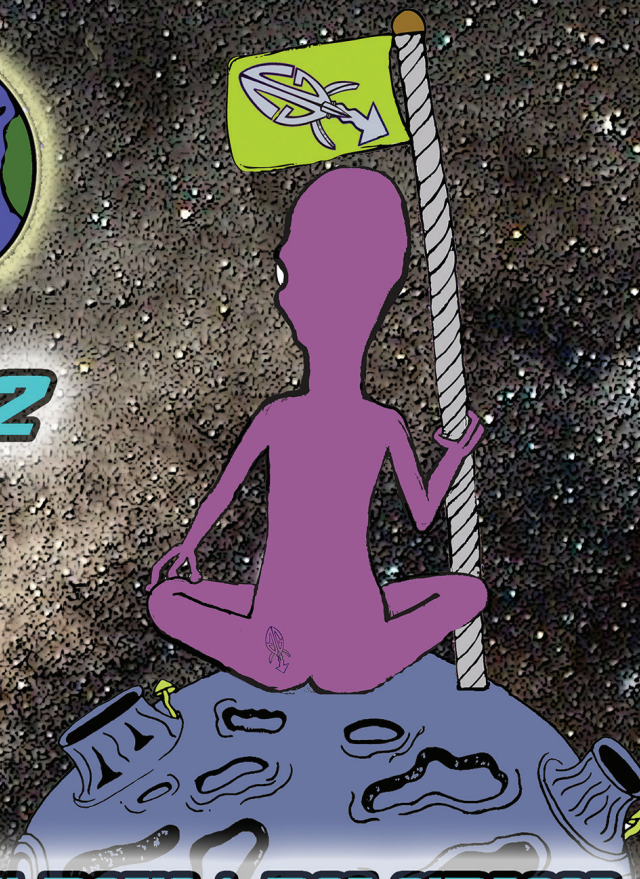
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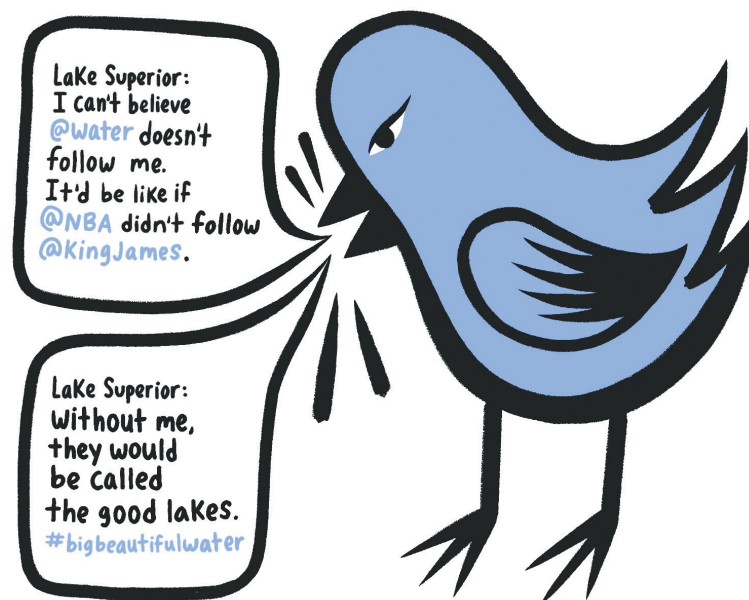
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TALK of the TOWN



Somehow, that bizarre formula makes these two the most powerful of all.

Best Dressed

Stefon Diggs

The “Minneapolis Miracle” was really more of a fluke. Stefon Diggs made an easy catch, a defender missed an easy tackle, and the rest is last-second NFL lore. The real miracle, if you ask us, is the stunning variety of looks Stefon’s serving up to his 600,000-ish Instagram followers. There’s Stefon lookin’ like a cowboy on top of a snow mountain. Here’s Stefon in a get-up that would’ve pleased Run-DMC back in the day, standing against a random wall in Washington, D.C. Stefon clearly cares how he looks, and if you check the comments on his Insta posts, you’ll see that his fans do, too.

Best Website

Sandy’s Tavern

6612 Penn Ave. S., Richfield

612-869-9945

sandystavern.com

Half internet circa 1998 and half un-ironic *Tim and Eric Awesome Show*, this Richfield dive bar’s website is a gloriously tacky time capsule. The name SANDY’S TAVERN pulsates with a GIF-y glow; the text screams with Comic Sans-ian bluntness; a wavy banner reading “Try our olive burger” follows your goddamn cursor! Brilliance. Is there an anthropomorphized burger man with bacon limbs standing atop the de facto slogan, “Salad? That’s what our food eats!”? You better believe it. City Pages broke the news of Sandy’s being for sale back in January, so

let’s pray the tavern’s future owner has the courage to never, ever change the website.

Best Instagram

@christophercline

[instagram.com/christophercline](https://www.instagram.com/christophercline)

The world of Christopher Cline is one in which the Buffalo, Minnesota, photographer and his dog Juji go clubbing at the disco, smoke pipes in rich-guy waistcoats, and attend the Golden Globes. Cline is a tiny man with Greek philosopher facial hair and karate dance moves. Juji is a perpetually peckish goldendoodle as tall as a John Deere tractor, whom Cline rides like a horse. Together, they have high-flying adventures exploring space and battling chipmunks wielding swords. They also spend a lot of time cuddling in front of large windows facing lavish scenes from Minnesota’s sublime four seasons. Theirs is a better world, where the forests are forever drenched in the golden light of the magic hour and the laws of physics bow to man and his best friend. It definitely improves ours.

Readers’ Choice: @eatdrinkdishmpls

Best Tweeter

@LakeSuperior

twitter.com/lakesuperior

Think Amy Klobes is hardcore for announcing her presidential run in the middle of a snowstorm without a hat on? You haven’t seen Lake Superior under 90 percent ice cover, looking smug. Did you know that it would take about six people their entire lifetimes to resurface all that ice with Zambonis? @LakeSuperior tweets neat facts like that to 30,000-plus followers

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because, regardless of all those 100-year-old sturgeons running around inside her and NOAA's constant monitoring, it can be mighty lonely at the top. Ten-thousand-year-old Lake Superior is devastatingly beautiful and knows that feigning humility is for inferior bodies of water, so you can expect her to retweet a lot of fawning fan mail and glamorous photos of herself splashing up on cliffs or glistening under the midday sun. She's also interested in ships, lighthouses, and you taking your dog on long walks on her beaches. She's indisputably the Greatest Lake of All Time. Just ask her.

Best Viral Moment

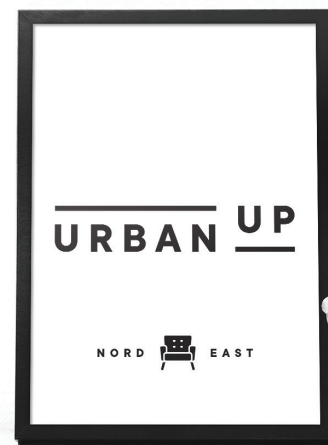
Sidewalk Acorns in Northeast

Other than the midterm elections, no story captured the nation's imagination quite like the northeast Minneapolis runner who chastised his neighbors about sidewalk acorns. "The sidewalks have been LITTERED with acorns," Eric Curtis wrote on the Facebook group I Love NE Minneapolis. "As a competitive barefoot runner, this makes my training sessions very difficult." He urged homeowners to sweep their sidewalks; he gently threatened to turn those who don't into the city. Neighbors teed off on the seemingly ridiculous athlete, calling him a "wackadoodle," "nut," "Nancy," and "pansy," charges he described as cyberbullying and discrimination. National outlets picked up the story, which turned out to be... a very dumb hoax. "Just goes to show," Curtis told BuzzFeed. "You can't fool journalists, unless they are from the Washington Post or Esquire or Gizmodo or Fast Company or Uproxx." Or, as it turned out, City Pages.

Best Way to Get Flipped the Bird

Through a Mitten

Are you so cold you don't want to expose an inch of skin, but so mad you need a stranger to know it? Sounds like you're about to produce one of Minnesota's most rare and beautiful birds: the mitten flip. Giving someone the finger through a mitten is a delicate art. There are some pros who manage to contour parts of the mitten to expose a sort of middle finger tent pole, effectively getting their point across. Others raise their bemittened hands, knuckles out, in a sort of uppercut motion, hoping the violence of the gesture will compensate for the lack of an actual finger. But be warned: If anyone gets so angry at you they actually remove the mitten in order to better flip you off, that's your cue to run.



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Best Women's Clothing Store

June
3406 Lyndale Ave. S., Minneapolis
612-354-3970
juneresale.com

Sure, you can stroll into any mall shop and find the same old, same old every single time. Or you could shop at June, an upscale resale jewel box of a shop located on Lyndale Avenue. June, which celebrated its 10th anniversary last year, focuses on designer pieces, whether that's Louis Vuitton bags or Chanel sweaters, all in prime condition for a great price. Oh, and did we mention there's a room full of shoes? If you're not into labels, don't fret—June also offers tons of pieces by lesser-known brands, but the attention to detail and quality is always pristine. You never know what you'll find at June, and that's part of its magic.

Best Men's Clothing Store

Heimie's Haberdashery
400 Saint Peter St., St. Paul
651-224-2354
heimies.com

You can rub shoulders with the elites of downtown Minneapolis at an upscale men's store, or shell out three figures to join Askov Finlayson's movement of heavily branded "North" items. But don't forget the classics. Heimie's is approaching its 100th year in business in downtown St. Paul. And you can see why: It's gorgeous inside and out, the selection's as good as anywhere—and the prices are probably better. Combine that with top-shelf customer service (try the barbershop!), and you'll be striding back onto the block with the confidence of a much cooler, more handsome man than you were an hour before.

Best Boutique

Proper
2743 Lyndale Ave. S., Minneapolis
612-345-5486
properprim.com

If you're of a certain age, your calendar fills up with important events like weddings, bachelorette parties, showers, and work functions, and you need clothes for the occasion. You want to look cute, fit the event, and not spend a ton. Try Proper, a trend-forward boutique on Lyndale Avenue, where shopping is like sifting through your coolest friend's closet. The emphasis is on feminine,

cool-girl silhouettes and bright colors, with more classic pieces and easy basics mixed in. There are patterns galore, chic and budget-friendly accessories, and even some home goods that make perfect gifts. New stuff arrives all the time. Pro tip: Keep an eye on Proper's Instagram to snag new items before they sell out.

Readers' Choice: Patina

Best Place to Buy Jewelry

Golden Rule Collective
350 Water St., Excelsior
612-598-2098
shopgoldenrule.com

Need to pick up cute greeting cards, hostess gifts, a new pair of shoes, and some super-cool earrings? Golden Rule Collective in Excelsior is your one-stop shop. An emporium for creativity, inspiration, and personal style, this store has a jewelry selection that's something to brag about. It's full of bold brass statement pieces from lines like Kiki Koyote and Annika Fine, piles of super-trendy resin earrings in cool colors and designs, a section of vintage charms so you can build your own necklaces, and uber-giftable (or keepable!) rings, bracelets, and necklaces for every occasion. Local makers like Neal Jewelry sell their wares at Golden Rule, so when you nab a new ring, you're often also supporting a local artist.

Best Thrift Store

Old School by Steeple People
1901 Nicollet Ave., Minneapolis
612-871-8305

Steeple People is back! The Lyndale Avenue thrift shop was a beloved favorite until it closed to make way for yet another fancy apartment building. However, Steeple People refused to be silenced, and opened a new location on Nicollet, cleverly called Old School by Steeple People. Just like its predecessor, it offers reasonable prices on everything from clothing to housewares to art and furniture, as well as a massive selection of secondhand jewelry. Part of the store's charm is its relatively small selection; Old School doesn't boast rows and rows of racks like big-box thrift stores, but gives its customers an edited selection of items—and that's part of the fun. The new shop wonderfully retains the spirit of the original, but one thing that *has* changed about Old School? They now take credit cards! Hooray!

Readers' Choice: Unique Thrift Store



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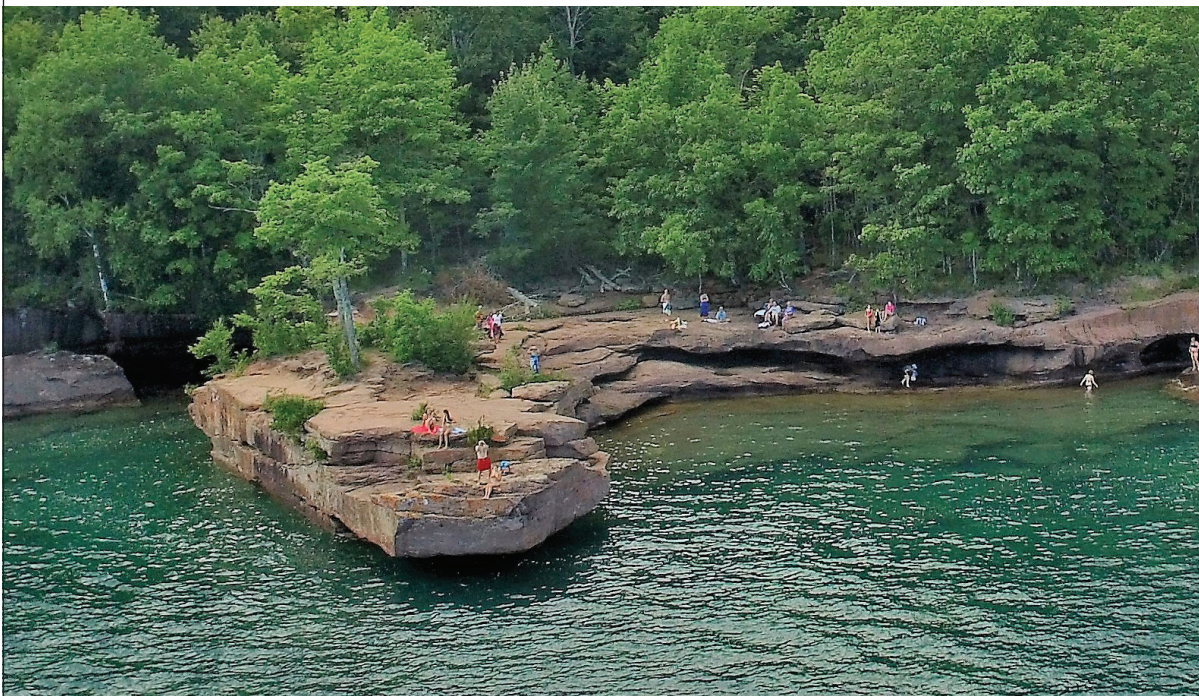
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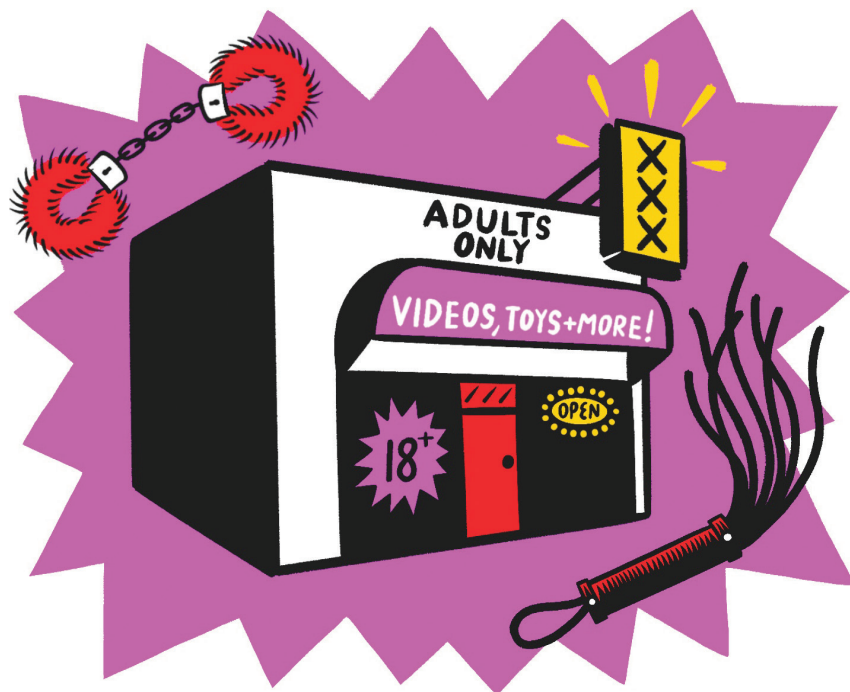


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Best Place to Buy a Gift

Northland Visions
861 E. Hennepin Ave. #130
Minneapolis
612-872-0390
northlandvisions.com

We're all about local pride, so why not do your gift shopping at a place with goods that are local as can be? Northland Visions is a beautiful, welcoming, Native-owned shop that relocated last year from Franklin Avenue to East Hennepin. It's full of gorgeous pieces by Native artists, from drums and star quilts to carved wood feathers and greeting cards, including a huge jewelry selection, intricately beaded bags, and handpainted leather wallets. There are foods like wild rice, honey, and chokecherry jam, plus adorable birchbark-canoe gift packages containing all three. The handmade work is complemented by a carefully curated selection of other items: Pendleton wool, books by Native authors, cuddly stuffed animals representing creatures native to Minnesota, including various species of fish (the rainbow trout is super cute). The store even caters to the makers of some of these lovely gifts, offering a huge array of beads.

Best Vintage Shop

FindFurnish
13 Fifth St. NE, Minneapolis
findfurnish.com

Maybe we're getting old, but digging through mountains of ugly crap to find

decent pieces seems to have lost some of its appeal. That's why FindFurnish, with its artfully selected pieces of mostly mid-century furniture and accessories, provides a nice space between thrift stores and upscale boutiques. You can count on finding something quality here, and if you don't, there is a major bonus of a small but incredibly good record store in the back. It provides a truly great compromise if one person in your relationship is on the hunt for a perfect coffee table and the other just wants to score a sweet Harry Nilsson album. Check it out.

Readers' Choice: Rewind

Best Adult Store

Enchantasys
6111 Hwy. 10 NW, Ramsey
3136 Hwy. 13 W., Burnsville
763-205-0542
enchantasys.com

Generally, adult stores are often pretty similar, offering variations on lingerie and the like. Discerning shoppers should go to specialty stores for real novelty, but then not everybody is looking for novelty. Sometimes you want something for a bachelorette party, or to browse a few magazines, or just need basic lube. The Enchantasys stores (one in Burnsville, one in Ramsey) have exactly that, and something more—a dedication to customer service that earns them raves online. If you're someone who ducks into an adult store now and then, it can

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cause nervousness. Friendly, uncritical staffers go a long way toward making that trip a pleasant, and, more importantly, ultimately satisfying one.

Best Lingerie Store

Flirt Boutique
177 N. Snelling Ave.
St. Paul
651-698-3692
flirt-boutique.com

A local lingerie store so sweet, it's got a second location at the Minneapolis-St. Paul airport! You can shop at Flirt Boutique either on Selby and Snelling in St. Paul or when you're jetting off on vacation from MSP. How chic is that? So many travelers get to experience the sweet and sexy allure of Flirt from Terminal 1. Flirt is one of the only locally owned lingerie stores around, and it wears that title with vintage-inspired, oh-so-glamorous pride. (And a glass of champagne, if you're lucky.) Indulge your inner pinup every time you shop at Flirt, whether you're shopping for fancy lingerie, a good ol' everyday basic bra, or some cute, cozy loungewear.

Readers' Choice: Smitten Kitten

Best Gaming Shop

All Systems Go
158 13th Ave. NE, Minneapolis
612-331-0028
asgnempls.com

The storming return of board games means new board game stores. Not all are great. But All Systems Go, a new shop in Northeast, already is. There's a carefully curated selection of both video and board games, available used and new, and the store actually has a comfortable room to play games in, a feat in such a small space. You can also use their great rental program to test drive a large variety of titles. All Systems Go is an all-around fantastic and fun addition to the neighborhood.

Readers' Choice:
Source Comics & Games

Best Garden Center

Bloomington Garden Center & Landscape Co.
9407 Old Cedar Ave. S.
Bloomington
952-854-8148
bloomingtongardencenter.com

Family-owned since 1919 by the Pedersons, Bloomington Garden Center & Landscape Co. is the oldest business

in this Minneapolis suburb, and there are good reasons why. The plant store features an extensive variety of colorful annuals, a wide assortment of hearty trees, perennial flowers, house- or office-ready plants, and grasses. All will withstand this tundra's brutal winters... and brutal springs. In addition, the garden center has a landscape architect on staff to help turn your backyard into a custom oasis. You'll soon make friends with your neighbors, make them jealous, or at least make them duck their heads out the back door to see what's going on out there.

Best Pet Store

Chuck & Don's
335 Central Ave. SE, Minneapolis
(and other metro locations)
651-747-8704
chuckanddons.com

It's refreshing to see a small business in the e-commerce age not only survive, but thrive. Buddies Chuck Anderson and Don Tauer opened their first outlet in Eagan nearly 30 years ago, and their understanding of animal lovers has grown this business into a regional institution. Minnesotans adopt heaps of fur babies rescued from high-kill shelters down South. They've been through a lot, so please give them stuffed animals for Valentine's Day and squeaky toys for Chinese New Year. Take them sniffing down the chunky treat aisle to pick out whatever they want. If a particular brand of food doesn't go over well, Chuck & Don's staff is cool if you bring it back. They've got puppy ice cream, brain games, bully canes twice as long as your dog, and apparel that is both pragmatic and fashionable. There's puppy playgroup in Edina, acupuncture and reiki in Hudson. Plus, Chuck keeps a blog where he takes questions and posts treat recipes. If you love your pet "too much," welcome to your tribe.

Best Green Business

Tech Dump
825 Boone Ave. N., Golden Valley
860 Vandalia St., St. Paul
612-260-9427
techdump.org

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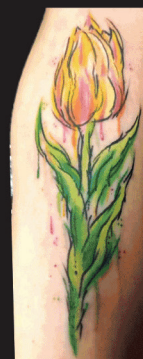
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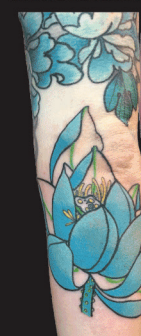
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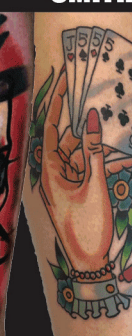
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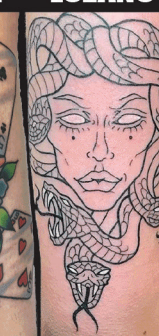
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e-waste disposal gets outsourced to other countries. This is where Tech Dump butts in and asks: Do we really have to create so much trash, and couldn't we fix the gear tech companies tell us have simply aged out? This growing electronics recycler does all of the above while fighting laws that throttle consumers' ability to repair the products they've purchased—a cause good for everyone from inner-city students to small-town farmers trying to conserve their equipment.

Best Hair Cut

Haus
Three metro locations
612-827-4287
haussalon.com

No matter which Haus location you go to—and there are three now—you are met with perfectly Instagrammable aesthetics, fantastic service, and, most importantly, stylists who will balance your individuality with haircuts that feel current and stylish. Their hospitality makes you feel valued and never the least bit out of place. Tanya, the style director at the new North Loop location (and @Olivejoos on Instagram), manages to create haircuts that capture the best of vintage style mixed with sexy razored flair.

Best Salon/Spa

Salt
3947 Excelsior Blvd., St. Louis Park
952-300-2153
experiencesalt.com

Details make or break a business. In a crowded market, Salt goes above and beyond to make sure you remember the small touches. Instead of a cup of coffee, they give you a small French press. The plants are beautiful, the jewelry for sale is gorgeous. All of this on top of a salon and spa where you can get everything from a blowout to a pedicure—or do yoga in a salt room. They also do microblading, not common in Twin Cities salons. But what really makes Salt special is that it's comprehensive, and in a stylish space, while also keeping prices reasonable. And you only need to go to the suburban border. Who knew?

Readers' Choice: Juut Salon/Spa

Best Place to Buy Makeup

Bluemercury
3510 GalleriaEdina
952-922-1100
galleriaedina.com

Do you get overwhelmed by the thousands of products in beauty superstores?

Looking for a more luxurious experience when purchasing cosmetics? Edina's Bluemercury is the place for unbeatable customer service from trained makeup artists. From the moment you step in, a staff member works one-on-one with you to find the best products for your needs. They'll even teach you how to use each, so you can create professional looks at home. Hell, if you're going to drop hard cash on high-quality cosmetics, you deserve the royal treatment. No wonder the chain is beloved by celebrities and normal folks alike.

Best Hotel

Nicollet Island Inn
95 Merriam St.
Minneapolis
612-331-1800
nicolletislandinn.com

Many of the metro's gleaming hotels are massive buildings on grand boulevards or central downtown streets. The Nicollet Island Inn sits inconspicuously, a skipping stone's throw away from the best of the city of Minneapolis has to offer. It provides the perfect perch to appreciate the industrial charm of Nicollet Island and St. Anthony Main. Stay in a room that's a luxe 19th-century museum bedroom exhibit you'd actually want to sleep in, full of tasteful, vintage design. Dine in the Nicollet's fancy restaurant aside the mighty Mississippi River, taking in some of the best views in the state.

Readers' Choice: The Saint Paul Hotel

Best Outdoors Store

REI in Bloomington
750 American Blvd. W.
Bloomington
952-884-4315
rei.com

This REI's so big, once you're done shopping you won't even feel like you need to go on that super ambitious hike you planned. Despite its mammoth size and impressive square footage, the store doesn't come with a sacrifice in personal and attentive service. It's easy to feel intimidated walking into hiking stores if you've never used "portage" as a verb. But at the Bloomington REI you'll be welcomed with open arms. Staff members will decorate those arms in tasteful fleeces, slide some hiking boots on your feet, and send you on your way. Now you can drive back to your house thinking this is the year you're actually gonna start.



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Best Gym

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612-888-1765

solcanafitness.com

Solcana's all about inclusiveness—welcoming all body types, gender identities, races, and abilities. Publicity images show a diversity of people and gender, and the huge rainbow flag inside the gym is another sign this place is open to anyone. It's also good for seriously bulking up; if you want to be able to deadlift 200 pounds, Solcana will help you reach that goal. It's not competitive, though: Solcana is a supportive community where unrealistic notions of what someone is "supposed" to look like aren't present. In fact, nobody is trying to get skinny at Solcana; go there in the general pursuit of thickness.

Readers' Choice:

Minneapolis Boulderling Project

Best Gay Bar

Brass Rail

422 Hennepin Ave.

Minneapolis

612-332-7245

thebrassrallounge.com

It's Monday night and you're stuck back at work again. Admit it: You're already bored, a little hungry, and could use a drink. Why not kill three birds with one stone by attending the Brass Rail's weekly "porndog" promotion, where \$5 gets you in the door, another \$5 gets you a Stoli vodka drink, and hot dogs run \$0.00 all night. On the screen? Porn! It's 2019, and if you're not comfortable deep-throating a hot dog with a vodka buzz, strangers surrounding you, and people banging on television, we're here to suggest you move to the suburbs where things like that still take place in the privacy of one's home.

Best Place to Buy Furniture

Guided Salvage Antiques

4430 Lyndale Ave. N.

Minneapolis

612-789-1680

guidedsalvage.com

For over 20 years, Guided Salvage Antiques has been the place Twin Cities preservationists go for beautifully restored salvage. Most of the inventory comes from homes built from 1880 to 1940, but an occasional newer piece will pop up if it's cool, interesting, and/or

really well made. Best known for their lighting and hardware niche, the Guided Salvage team works with wreckers, contractors, and homeowners to obtain salvage rights to remove beautiful kitchen cupboards, claw-foot bathtubs, doors, trim, built-ins, and windows. They bring their bounty back to the shop where they re-assemble, clean, and showcase the pieces. The displays alone are well worth the drive to this Camden neighborhood gem.

Best Toy Store

Mischief Toy Store

818 Grand Ave.

St. Paul

651-493-3307

mischieftoy.com

Would you give a two-year-old Speks, the cool-looking and relatively pricey magnet setups that market their wares as a stress-relief "desk toy"? Most toddlers don't even have jobs, let alone desks! And sure, you could shop online for your young-at-heart, stressed-in-life games. But this shop houses varieties of Dungeons & Dragons, Settlers of Catan, Magic the Gathering, games featuring comic heroes or villains (choose your personality type!), *Harry Potter*-themed party exploits... honestly, maybe you should give these to the toddler in your life. Playing games like this will prepare them for life's magnets, dungeons, and villains, and its occasional magic. And the regularly scheduled tournaments will teach them it's all a competition—and a friendly one, if they're nice enough about it.

Best Place to Buy Vinyl

Roadrunner Records

4304 Nicollet Ave.

Minneapolis

612-822-0613

roadrunnerrecords.com

Roadrunner has been faithfully serving the needs of Twin Cities music fans since 1986, long before the current vinyl revival, and when every day of the year was Record Store Day for music lovers. Roadrunner has seen its way through fads, genres, and styles that come and go, and wholesale changes in the way music is heard, shared, and purchased. And all the while, Roadrunner has diligently stocked its shelves and filled its racks with a well-curated selection of new and used rock and jazz LPs, with a healthy mix of everything else in between. It's no-frills, no hype, and independent, a communal place



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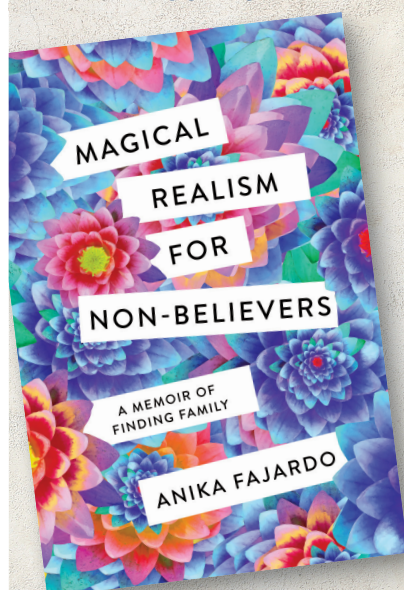
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Wayzata, MN 55391

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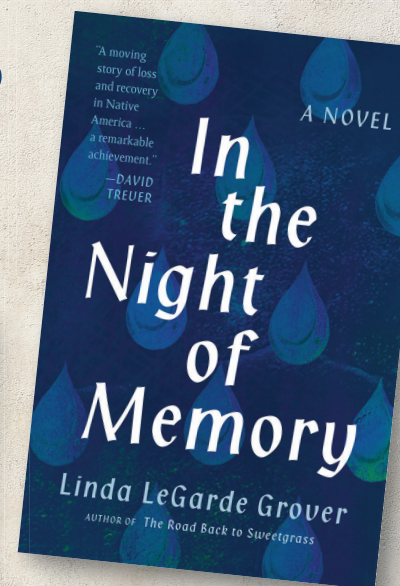
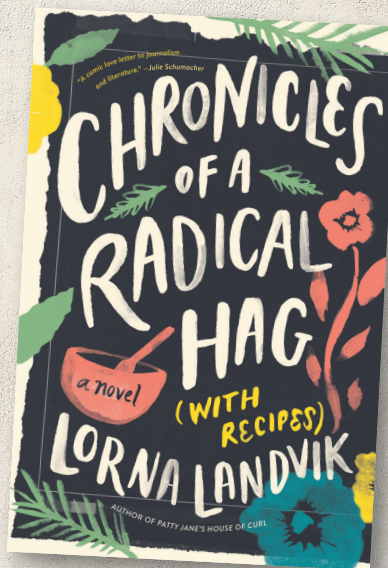
Best Minnesota Books

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Readers' Choice: Electric Fetus

Best Tattoo Parlor

Tailorbird Tattoo
3319 E. 50th St., Minneapolis
612-721-0993
tailorbirdtattoo.com

Not long ago, the tattoo biz was male-dominated and heteronormative. They're traditionally "edgy" joints: leather and skulls and chrome, masculinity (or at least toughness) on full blast. Tailorbird, started by a pair of queer artists in 2015 and dedicated to positivity and inclusiveness, is not your rebel uncle's tattoo shop. The waiting room feels like a hipster dentist's office, with welcoming white and chartreuse paint and natural light. Instead of bones and flames, you'll see a pair of jackalopes nuzzling on the wall, live plants, and the occasional stained glass accent. It all lets you know that you don't need to be a tougher, stronger, straight-er person to get the tats you want. Come as you are, leave as you like.

Readers' Choice: Saint Sabrina's

Best Strip Club

Augie's Bourbon Street Cabaret
424 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis
612-333-7652

Augie's is an institution, rich with history as Minneapolis' oldest strip joint, with stories of legendary gangsters, athletes, and comics trapped in its walls. And sure, club operator Brian Michael's attempt to turn the place's behind-the-scenes drama into a reality TV show fizzled. And yes, a woman entered Augie's in 2016 with a loaded gun and shot and killed a rival. But! Michael explained she'd only smuggled the gun in by keeping it in her underwear, and said that security had looked for a gun in her purse but didn't thoroughly search her crotch for a weapon due to "gender sensitivities." Ask us, and this country could use way fewer pistols and way more strip-club owners who talk like that.

Best Head Shop

Hideaway
1309 Fourth St. SE, Minneapolis (and other metro locations)
612-331-1554
thehideawayonline.com

As cannabis legalization became de rigueur in the DFL side of the 2018

gubernatorial race, you could see the writing on the wall. Weed is going to be legal sometime in the next few years, and some people and places are racing to get ready for it. The Hideaway is among them. Once a dark, cavernous space with teenage stoner vibes, the Hideaway has grown up, expanded, added lighting, and even purchased the coffee shop space next door. As some folks will have to sprint to set up spaces for the coming race to profit from legalization, these folks will be kicked back, ready to go... and already rolling up a joint.

Best Smoke Shop

Midway Tobacco and Vapor
1469 University Ave. W.
St. Paul
651-647-5333

In these divisive times, it's important for opposite types to find common ground and communal spaces. We're talking of course about smokers and vapers, both maligned by the rest of society and yet often leery of each other. At Midway Tobacco and Vapor, the two kinds are truly welcome. This spacious store is well stocked with tobacco: for hookahs, for pipes, for rolling your own, cigs by the pack and the carton. The vaping options include multiple brands and seemingly endless flavors. There are even cool carved ashtrays adorned with skulls. And yes, smokers of that soon-to-be-legal substance are catered to as well, with artful smoking devices and all kinds of incense (plus snacks!). Walk in for smokes, walk out with a glass Krusty the Clown pipe you just realized you needed.

Best Beach

St. Croix Beach
16455 20th St. S.
Hastings
651-436-7031

If you've done one beach in the Twin Cities proper, you've done 'em all. Why not escape the city and get your sunshine and sand fix on the border of Minnesota and Wisconsin? The St. Croix Beach is about 35 minutes from downtown Minneapolis and offers stretches of soft, white sand on the St. Croix riverfront. Stock up on snacks and beverages, then stop at a few of the townie bars on the way home after you've had your fill of sun and relaxing. Sure, it's a family beach, but it's so big that you can easily scoot away from crying kids or sand fights. The water is cool, crisp,

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and oh-so-swimmable, especially on the hottest days of summer.

Readers' Choice:

Hidden Beach (Cedar Lake East Beach)

Best Place to Jog

Prospect Park neighborhood

The absolute worst thing about running in a city, any city, is traffic, which will at least slow you down... and might get you killed. And the second worst thing is stop signs and stop lights. What you want is to get some flow, some momentum, get your running rhythm down, and be able to turn corners with confidence you're not about to run into six smokers or a bus. Prospect Park's gently hilly and largely residential 'hood is ideal for scenic runs. Circle the Witch's Hat tower, and dream of drinking its contents once your legs give out.

Best Hike

Schaar's Bluff at Spring Lake Park
8500 127th St. E., Hastings

As you pass infinite farmland on your way to Spring Lake Park Reserve in

Dakota County, you might not expect to soon find yourself hiking through a luscious forest on the edge of rugged bluffs with sweeping vistas of the Mississippi River. But it's here, a 20-minute drive from downtown St. Paul, or a stop along the popular Mississippi River Trail paved bike route. A network of winding, interconnected trails provides an all-day adventure or a quick picnic stop—with opportunities for snowshoeing and skiing in winter. It's kid- and dog-friendly, with free admission and free parking.

Best Weekend Getaway

Duluth

visitduluth.com

There is no dispute: Duluth is Minnesota's coolest city, hands down. The simple fact that it sits ashore of the mighty Lake Superior, featuring hilly topography rare for these northern plains, sets it in a category by itself. But there's also something special, something serene and comforting about the capital of the North Woods. It offers everything from skiing to dog-sledding, camping to hik-



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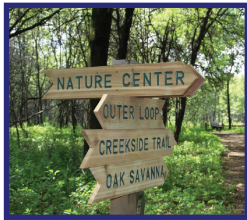
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CITY LIFE

ing, fishing to ship-watching, while still providing nearly every nightlife amenity you'd expect from a city. Think of it as a prettier version of Minneapolis or St. Paul, run at a slower, more contented pace. More important, it's a mere two hours from the Twin Cities, making paradise accessible to everyone, regardless of how full your wallet is.

Best Day Trip

Winona

cityofwinona.com

Built on a mere sandbar in the middle of a river, Winona's a couple hours and change from the Twin Cities. That's actually a good thing, given how pretty that drive is. Farm country, rolling green hills, and rocky crevices eventually give way to what this town has to offer: lakes, soaring bluffs, eagles, herons, and a bank-side view of the Mississippi River. More into art? Check out the galleries in Winona's extremely walkable downtown, or catch the annual Shakespeare Festival, Boats and Bluegrass Festival, or Midwest Music Fest. Pound Bloedow Bakery's doughnuts, which have been voted best in the state too many times to count and are more or less a religion. Winona is far away enough to offer escape, but close enough to make a one-day trip worth your time.

Best Bike Trail

Grand Rounds Scenic Byway
exploreminnesota.com

Minneapolis' naturally splendorous parks bump up against the sophisticated cool of urban landscape, maybe more than in any other American city. And maybe more than any other bike trail in Minneapolis, the Grand Rounds Scenic Byway makes it easy to enjoy the concrete jungle and leafy, grassy parts all in one ride. This seven-segment, 55-mile trail loops around almost the whole city. Roll along the roaring Mississippi. Pedal past the more placid Lake of the Isles. Stop to admire Minnehaha Falls. Along the route, you're never too far from either of the two things that keep Twin Cities cyclists going: beautiful views and beer.

Best View

Kellogg Boulevard

Someday, the stretch of riverfront along Kellogg Boulevard might look much different: Developers are plotting a massive overhaul that would leave the capital city with new residential and commercial buildings. Tall ones: "towers," accord-

ing to plans introduced in November. That's swell for them, but won't do any favors for the views people outside those buildings currently get looking eastward toward the river and beyond. Drink it in now, and hopefully you can live, work, or sneak into one of these new buildings once they're up.

Best Waterpark

Bamboo Bay

Shoreview Community Center
4580 Victoria St. N.
Shoreview
651-490-4700

Opened in December 2018, Bamboo Bay is a 7,000-square-foot indoor waterpark expansion at the Shoreview Community Center. It features over 40 different interactive water elements with a variety of tunnel slides, sprinklers, sprayers, dumping buckets, and twin racing slides. It even includes spaces for your wee mini-mes with a little water slide bridge, water spouts, and zero-depth entry into their 18-inch-deep pool. In addition, the daily pass includes admission to the waterpark, new indoor playground, and the fitness center. Want to pretend this is Vegas and not Minnesota during the next polar vortex? Rent out a cabana and blast some Bob Marley while the kids splash away the next snow day. You'll probably need it more than they do.

Best Place to Walk at Night

Rice Park

109 W. Fourth St., St. Paul
651-266-6400

Sure, it's a little annoying, but if your romantic stroll or head-clearing solo walk is sometimes interrupted by someone taking a picture (or getting theirs taken professionally), you know you're in a nice-looking place. Rice Park's nice all day and year-round, but it's at its most scenic when the city strings lights around its circle of tall trees. The atmosphere's right out of the last pivotal scene of a romantic comedy, but if you're alone, just pretend it's the public square where you've arrived to meet a rival spy. Rice Park is the perfect setting for either scenario.

Best Place to Cross-Country Ski

Theo Wirth to
Calhoun Beach Club
minneapolisparcs.org

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driven sauna renaissance. Why not take full advantage of it with a point-to-point urban ski? Pick a snowy morning and start at Theo Wirth's newly revamped Trailhead building, where the 612 Sauna Society folks were posted up all winter with their wood-fired mobile unit. Ski the 10-odd winding miles of lakes and parks along any number of loppet routes to finish at Calhoun Beach Club, whose guest-friendly sauna, steam room, and shaving accoutrements will make you feel like you're on a Rocky Mountain glamping expedition—all within city limits.

Best Place to Ice Skate

Skate the Star at MOA
2131 Lindau Ave., Bloomington
952-883-8809
mallofamerica.com/skate

Last December, the Mall of America had holiday shoppers lining up to skate the brand-new 12,000-square-foot outdoor ice rink. What's more Minnesotan than breaking from hectic holiday shopping to go ice skate? (Or to desperately cling to the boards.) If you bring your skates, the experience is entirely free. Skate rental will knock you back five bucks, but all proceeds benefit the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Twin Cities. You'll have to wait until next season to enjoy this rink again. Then again, ice is the last thing you'll be pining for after this dreadful winter.

Readers' Choice: Lake of the Isles

Best Place to Sled

Columbia Golf Club
3330 Central Ave. NE
Minneapolis
612-230-6520
minneapolisparcs.org

If you like your outdoor winter activities served up with a side of civic controversy, this is the sled destination for you. Columbia is a public golf course, and a 90-year-old one at that. But cities (and their loud young residents) are rethinking uses of public space, and some think this whole 150-acre plot should be open to the public year-round. Take sides in that fight, and take in the wintry scenes at Columbia at its sled site, which the city identifies as "one of the steepest hills in northeast Minneapolis."

Best Dog Park

Loring Park Dog Grounds
1382 Willow St.
Minneapolis
612-230-6400

Nothing better exemplifies this close-knit neighborhood than the dog scene at this cozy off-leash area tucked into a corner of Minneapolis' oldest park. Here it seems every pup is known by name, greeted heartily at the gate by wagging tails and cheers of welcome. Humans handle waste management, though the most popular are also generous with treats. Limestone boulders make great agility obstacles and urinals. A grassy

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bank littered with acorns fallen from a canopy of old oak trees serves as a salad bar for some pups, and provides great squirrel-watching for others. A venerable dog totem engraved with words of wisdom marks this as the realm of canines. Look for the omnipresent 300-pound Rottweiler who runs the joint like a bouncer. Volunteers do upkeep, and regulars are so close they hang out even with no dogs in sight.

Best Public Park

Gold Medal Park
Second Street and 11th Avenue South
Minneapolis
952-883-8809
goldmedalpark.org

Gold Medal Park is a gem. It occupies a glorious post on the Mississippi River. Absent the usual giant trees or lakes, Gold Medal is more of a public lawn for the Vitamin D-starved urbanite. There are benches to lounge and eat ice cream on, but the turf is so soft you needn't find another surface to perch upon. If you ride your bike there, as many

do, you can enjoy the childlike thrill of walking to the top of the spiral hill and zooming back down. This is best done in the early or late hours when no children are present; at the right hour you get the double thrill of getting sprayed with the sprinklers. And there are places to charge your phone or plug in a small speaker, but don't tell anyone we told you.

Readers' Choice:
Minnehaha Park and Falls

Best Place to Do Yoga

Up Yoga
4325 Nicollet Ave., Minneapolis
612-825-4609
upyogamn.com

Can't tell the difference between the Mountain Pose and the Tree Pose? Don't fret, the yogis at Up Yoga in south Minneapolis will guide even first-timers to nirvana. Visitors will get a sense of confidence as they learn how to be in tune with their body through breath and movement. The studio is kept at 95 degrees to promote muscle flexibility

and the removal of toxins. (There will be sweat.) Up Yoga's staff creates a deep sense of community by connecting with every person that walks through the door. They'll even provide personal assistants to help you land the best posture during classes. Best of all, your first month of yoga is only \$40.

Readers' Choice: CorePower Yoga

Best Mini Golf

Big Stone Mini Golf
7110 County Rd. 110 W.
Minnetrista
952-472-9292
bigstoneminigolf.com

Big Stone is to mini-golf what Edward Scissorhands' garden was to topiaries. Built on farmland owned by a sculptor who turned his eye toward the entertaining utility, each of the 14 holes is a work of miniature genius. The pastoral landscape of sunflowers, goats, chickens, and ponds is connected to a great bike path, and visitors who make it to Minnetrista will find holes as fun to look at as they are to play. The sunflower spiral

hole is epic, as is a "shoot the rapids," and the whole rest of the bunch besides. Big Stone is a west metro treasure.

Best Festival

Harmony Park Music Garden
79503 298th St.
Clarks Grove
507-402-8733
harmonypark.com

Tucked away off a dusty dirt road and hidden under 40 acres of massive oak trees on the shores of Lake Geneva, this place has everything. Music, camping, bonfires, acroyoga, fire-lit hula hoops, impromptu late-night concerts, vegan breakfast burritos, the occasional late-night wook shenanigans, and youthful nostalgia. Opened in 1996, Harmony Park has been home to many local and national bands: the Big Wu, Trampled by Turtles (played one of their first shows here!), WookieFoot, Useful Jenkins, Frogleg, Umphrey's McGee, Yonder Mountain String Band, Leftover Salmon, Phil Lesh, and Widespread Panic. It's no wonder why Harmony Park loyalists call it home.



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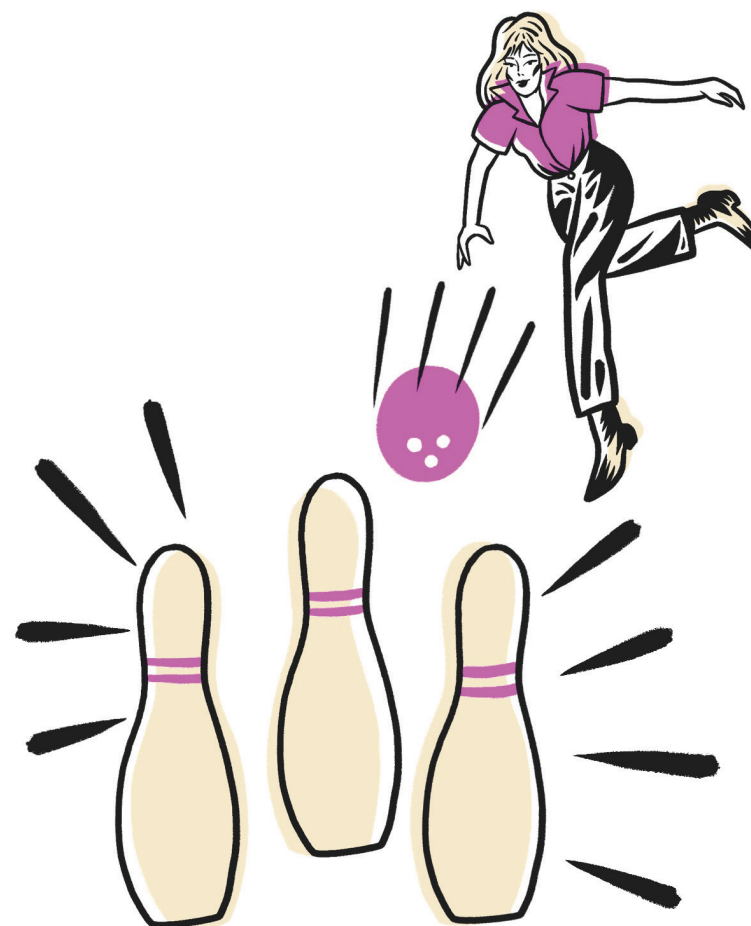
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Although not technically a music festival, Harmony Park is home to some of the best festivals in the midwest, if not the country. From Memorial Weekend's Revival, to late July's Campfire Retreat, to Labor Day weekend's Shangri-La, there is a festival for almost everyone.

Readers' Choice: Minnesota State Fair

Best Place to Shoot Pool

Yacht Club
801 Marshall St. NE, Minneapolis
612-378-1740

Hear us out here. So there's only one table at Yacht Club, and no, it's not the brightest, shiniest, newest one. And yeah, the price recently went up, and sometimes whole teams of, like, softball players show up and fill the bar with noise and the smell of sweat. So? The down-home vibe here's just what you need to calm your nerves as you line up a potential game-winner—which you'll need to make, since busy nights get competitive for table time. Bring someone who knows how to play, or make friends with the people holding the table. Get 'em a little drunk, get some quarters, and get in line.

Readers' Choice: CC Club

Best Bowling Alley

Town Hall Lanes
5019 34th Ave. S.
Minneapolis
612-767-3354
thlanes.com

When the Skylanes Bowling location went up for sale in 2013, this local brew-pub/restaurant chain was quick to buy it up. These days you can bowl to your heart's content at the venue's 10 lanes, free from warped flooring or bad grease jobs. National bowling authorities (they exist) inspected things to make sure it's all up to code. Bowling is wholesome, yet never becomes uncool, probably because you can still drink and succeed. Town Hall Lanes is no exception, with a strong selection of wine, in-house brews, and cocktails, a few of which take their name from *The Big Lebowski*.

Readers' Choice: Bryant-Lake Bowl

Best Free Event/Activity

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E 52nd St & Cedar Ave South
Minneapolis | (612) 729-1127

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1360 Lexington Ave North
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3000 Calhoun Pkwy East
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Best Casino

Mystic Lake
2400 Mystic Lake Blvd.
Prior Lake
800-262-7799
mysticlake.com

Okay, Mystic might have a pretty obvious claim on the category here, but can you blame us? The place keeps getting bigger and better. This year, Mystic Lake locked up the title when it added a daiquiri bar. Daiquiris are uniformly underappreciated in the upper Midwest, so we have to celebrate any place that puts more of them into the world, especially where they can serve so many purposes: make a fun night more fun, drown the sorrows of your losses, or, you know, get stupid drunk while you watch friends lose all their cash. Your choice.

Readers' Choice: Mystic Lake

Best Way to Spend \$5

Riverview Theater
3800 42nd Ave. S.
Minneapolis
612-729-7369
riverviewtheater.com

Want the big-screen experience at a cheap-ass price? Look no further than the Riverview Theater in south Minneapolis, with its twinkling marquee, art deco interior, and comfy, plush seating. The ever-changing schedule includes mega-blockbusters, rare arthouse flicks, and beloved classics. Late-night weekend screenings in the summer include fun classics like *Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure*, *The Princess Bride*, and *Yellow Submarine*. Tickets will set you back \$3, but if it's a Tuesday or before 6 p.m., entrance will cost you just \$2 (kids and seniors always pay this rate). The popcorn is the best in town (they top it with real butter!), and you can order up a small for a mere \$3. That puts you at about \$5 total. If you're a big spender, spring for a popcorn-and-soda deal for \$6.50, and still skate in under \$10.

Best LGBTQ Event

Stonewall DFL Caucus
mnstonewalldfl.org

By reputation, the queers know how to party. Not the worst rumor to have out there about you. But here's what else they know how to do: organize campaigns, protests, serious events, social justice fights, legal and political actions. Every

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CITY LIFE

single right LGBTQ folks have won was because they went to war for it, often without a ton of help from straight allies. The Minnesota Stonewall DFL chapter is an active one, a badly needed voice in a state with exactly one queer legislator in the House and one in the Senate. Go meet the party caucus... and who knows, another kind of party just might break out after all.

Best Place to Make Out

Vegas Lounge parking lot
965 Central Ave. NE
Minneapolis
612-378-1873
vegasloungemn.com

You: a little sweaty from grinding shoulders and hips and trying desperately to get that last \$20 out of your pocket to reach it toward a bartender. Them: hard same. You did enjoy charismatic people taking the stage, heating up the room and acing karaoke. Hell, maybe one of you was one of them! But it's winding down, and you've had enough music. You're ready to hear noises emanating from someone's mouth a little closer. Like... real close. Meet them in the parking lot, and don't flinch if you notice someone else exiting or arriving. As far as you know, they're out there waiting for someone—and their tongue.

Best Way to Score a Date

Recommending something at a grocery store
Friends don't let friends buy bad food—or miss out on the chance to upgrade to the better, cheaper, or more exotic version of something at the co-op. A view into someone's shopping cart is a view into their soul. Are they vegan? Are they confident in their ability to handle salmon? Those skewers in there, doesn't that mean he probably owns a grill? Maybe he's got a backyard! Try low-risk small talk. Be polite. If their eyes don't roll faster than you can say "sustainable local organic," get ready to meet their parents.

Best Place to See and Be Seen

Nicollet Mall

If you're looking for real city scenes, where the rich, poor, cool, lame, young, old, and swirling races and types try melting together on one long stretch of sidewalk, hit Nicollet Mall and you'll realize this is where it all comes together. There's a weary traveler hauling a bag

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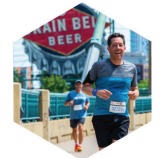
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off the light rail; there's a beautifully besuited banker trying not to make eye contact with people waiting for a bus; tattooed skaters; street preachers; hip-pie performers doing... something with sticks; a teen whose hairstyle is, if not "in," about to be once someone takes a photo. If you don't drink it in you're not only missing out. You're depriving all of them a chance at seeing you.

Best Dance Club

Honey
205 E. Hennepin Ave.
Minneapolis
612-746-0306
honeympls.com

Honey in Northeast is aptly named; it's a hive. Inside, after descending the stairs, you'll arrive in a dark, low-ceilinged basement, a vibration chamber as classically urban as an alley. There's hardly any space. Ordering a drink is like swimming through a sea of people to land, then clinging to a reef as waves of bros and impossibly beautiful women continually crash ashore. But the center of the Honey dance floor is the truest Twin Cities dance zone-out—a loud, hip-hop leaning, pop-friendly, unabashedly sweaty pile of all kinds of sweetness.

Readers' Choice: First Avenue

Best Dance Night

Nightchurch
2528 Nicollet Ave. S.
Minneapolis
612-6276-6524
icehousempls.com

Formerly Nightchain, Nightchurch happens on the periodic Sunday, turning Icehouse into a nondenominational dance temple. Pop, hip-hop, R&B, synthy rock, bouncy electronica, and subdued EDM are intertwined seamlessly by eclectic and flat-out weirdo local ballers like DJ Keezy and DJ Rowsheen. The intimate but sneakily big dance floor is perfect for catching the spirit and breaking it down or making a move already, with plenty of comfy seating, patio space, and an upper floor for breaks.

Best Place to be Drunk

Pride
Loring Park, 1382 Willow St.
Minneapolis
tcpride.org

Maybe you're not prepared for a row of ass-out chaps, neon belly shirts, and blaring dance music by one in the after-

noon. Know who is? Any veteran of a Pride parade or party. This celebration of sexuality and unity is a protest disguised as a party, and even the straights out there would love it if they'd loosen up. Stop somewhere for brunch. Order that second cocktail, take some deep breaths, and undo those top couple buttons. If you didn't have this in you sober, you got it now.

Best Place to Show Up Stoned

Recreation league baseball game in Powderhorn Park
3400 15th Ave. S.
Minneapolis
612-370-4960
minneapolisparcs.org

Minneapolis doesn't win best park system in the nation just because of 7,000 acres of leafy bike paths, and waterways aren't always great places to commune with nature while high as a kite. Of all the serene and solitary spots one can stumble upon, few are quite as perfect as the hillside steps behind the baseball field at Powderhorn Park, which slopes above home plate like an accidental riser. In summer, long grasses and fragrant wildflowers flourish. Families hauling coolers crowd the dugout below to cheer on players practicing in red-dirt-caked uniforms. Aluminum bats produce a satisfying metal clink, followed by the rapid peel of a myriad of languages driving the synergistic formation of put-outs and base hits. Where nature and logic meet, there's no better place to consider life's purposeful pattern. There's no smoking allowed on park land, of course, so respect the kiddos and hit that blunt across the street.

Best Victimless Crime

Giving someone your Metro Transit pass

The downtowns of Minneapolis and St. Paul are all about the free exchange of ideas, money, cigarettes, recreational drugs, lunch recommendations, and suggestive glances. One thing you're not supposed to give out: a Metro Transit pass. Despite the fact that someone paid a ticket good for a given amount of time, rules say the ticket dies when its buyer's not using it. Why? Beats us. That bus or train was gonna be running whether someone uses her friend's (paid!) card anyway. We say let 'em ride—at least they're not looking for some place to park their Hummer.

YONGEY MINGYUR RINPOCHE

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CITY LIFE

Best Place to Take Your Tinder Date

Minnesota State Fair
1265 Snelling Ave. N., Falcon Heights
651-288-4400
mnstatefair.org

Is there a quicker way to measure your compatibility with a potential lover than to dive deep into the grime and grease of the Minnesota State Fair? What purpose is there to courting someone if, five months in, you find out they hate cheese curds, or God forbid, frequent the "Adventure Park" rides in the Midway? Order a bucket of Sweet Martha's and see how good they are at sharing. Hit the beergaritas hard and check their uncensored political opinions. And if things go well, there are a myriad of romantic opportunities: skyride views, free music, and the classic adult seven minutes in heaven at Ye Olde Mill. All for the price of admission. Happy hunting.

Best Place to Take Your Most Boring Friend

A brewery bike ride tour
Looking for a way to spend time with that co-worker whose last name starts with a 'B,' (or is it a 'D'?) and is somehow still claiming their favorite movie is *Love Actually*? Consider hopping on bikes and making a trek between brew halls. Lord knows there are enough of them clustered together (for first-timers, we'd suggest a Dangerous Man/Indeed/Able/Bauhaus outing) and your just-tipsy arrival at each will prove you are healthy, sporting, and kind—even to people who won't stop talking about Imagine Dragons.

Best Place to Take Out-of-Town Guests

Any outdoor festival in the dead of winter
Our weather reports look scary to outsiders, but we've been showing the world weather here is nothing to be afraid of since the Winter Carnival debuted in 1886. When (if?) friends and family visit in winter, get outside. Festivals like St. Paul's European Christmas Market and Holidazzle in Minneapolis are charming. Plus, we host the U.S. Pond Hockey Tournament, where top-notch amateurs and ex-pros take to Lake Nokomis. There are parades, rooftop ice bars, snow-sculpting contests, and the Art Shanties on Lake Harriet. And at all of them, you'll find a bonfire or warming tent is nearby. After all, we're tough, but not actually trying to die out here.

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FOOD *and* DRINK



Doughnut from Glam Doll. Jewelry, platter, serving utensils, and cloche from June. Photo by Emily Utne.

Best Bagels

Meyvn
901 W. Lake St.,
Minneapolis
612-315-4608
meyvneats.com

Owned by the folks behind Saint Dinette and Mucci's Italian, Lyn-Lake's Meyvn had a lot going for it. (Rosé on tap! Fancy cocktails! Killer bloodies! Fried chicken!) But their bread and butter? That would be the bagels and schmears. These wood-fired rings of heaven are crispy-crunchy on the outside and chewy-fluffy on the inside. You could go with a platonic-ideal plain, or choose from everything, garlic and onion, sesame, and brown sugar varieties. But because god isn't real, this solid Jewish deli-slash-bagel shop announced it's closing on April 21. The good news is you'll still be able to get these circular snacks at Kowalski's (phew!), and a recent Instagram post from the team promises they have "some exciting new things coming as well." Maybe we don't have to renounce our faith just yet.

Best Doughnuts

Cardigan Donuts
40 S. Seventh St., Minneapolis
612-259-7804
cardigandonuts.com

Cardigan Donuts is a skyway gem where simple classics get a twist of complexity thanks to their yeast-raised dough. The old fashioned, dense and hardy, is made for black coffee. The French cruller is what the cronut wishes it was: sweet and airy like a glazed doughnut, buttery and layered like a pastry. The bourbon apple fritter is comfort food for apple pie lovers, while the vanilla coconut bar somehow manages not to be cloyingly sweet. Don't be afraid to try the specials; we've never come across a dud.

Readers' Choice: Glam Doll Donuts

Best Bakery

Aki's BreadHaus
2506 Central Ave. NE, Minneapolis
612-578-7897
akisbreadhaus.com

Mornings at the farmers market are proof: Humans don't have enough hands. You

need one for your coffee, one for your list, one for your tote bag, another to check your phone—and, if you're at a few local markets, at least one clutching something from Aki's BreadHaus. As suckers for all things savory, we recommend the pretzels (duh) and the palm-sized brötchen breakfast rolls, but if sweets are your style, the cinnamon sticks and cookies can't miss. Of course, you can always stop by the storefront in Northeast, too: There's no better low-key weeknight dinner than a sandwich on Aki's hearty German bread paired with one of the crowlers you just snatched from Fair State a few short steps away.

Best Diner

Mickey's Diner
36 W. Seventh St., St. Paul
651-698-0259
mickeysdiningcar.com

Mickey's Diner is the best because nearly everything about it is a step above the rest. It never closes, and breakfast is always available. It has a downtown location, yet also a free parking lot. Its art deco

railcar structure? So much cooler than a regular old building. The fluffy pancakes, juicy burgers, and throwback phosphate floats are all classically delicious. The flat-top geniuses here have even figured out how to improve on that quintessential diner food, hash browns: They add perfectly grilled onion, green pepper, and ham and call the result Potatoes O'Brien. This 80-year-old gem of a diner is an old reliable in the best way.

Readers' Choice: Mickey's Diner

Best Breakfast

Band Box Diner
729 S. 10th St., Minneapolis
612-332-0850
facebook.com/bandboxeats

At Band Box, breakfast is a state of mind that lasts all day. Belly up to the diner's vintage counter and clutch of stools, and giggle as you watch the pancakes flying from the griddle struggle to fit within the confines of a dinner plate. Then, witness chef-owner Brad Ptacek's \$7 pièce de résistance, "Ze French Lil Buddy," which solves that savory-vs.-



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sweet dilemma with eggs, cheese, and sausage sandwiched between French toast, speared with a pink plastic sword, and dusted with powdered sugar. He's not unconvinced it inspired the McGriddle, and neither are we.

Readers' Choice: Keys Café & Bakery

Best Brunch

Kado no Mise
33 First Ave. N.
Minneapolis
612-338-1515
kadonomise.com

"Now wait just a tick," you're saying to yourself. "A North Loop sushi restaurant? *That's* the best place to get brunch right now?" Sure is! On Saturdays and Sundays, from 10 'til 2, this sushi and sake bar serves up a small but unmissable selection of sandos, savory pancakes, and rice bowls. The Yaki Niku Donburi tempts you to eat sautéed ribeye and rice at 10:30 a.m.; Wagyu beef and sweet cabbage pancakes make a similar plea. But is that what you really want, when the Tori Katsu brunch sandwich is

fried-chicken bliss on toasted yet squishy Japanese bread? Bring your friends; steal a bite of everything.

Readers' Choice: Hell's Kitchen

Best Pancakes

Swedish Pancakes
at Taste of Scandinavia
Multiple locations
tasteofscandinavia.com

Taste of Scandinavia's Swedish pancakes are eggy and paper-thin, more akin to a crepe than your standard American flapjack. But while the Swedes tend to be content with a simple garnish of lingonberries (and maybe some powdered sugar), this stateside version piles on the raspberry jam, bananas, strawberries, and whipped cream. Dessert for breakfast? Absolutely. But the pancakes are up to the task, their delicate appearance belying a pleasantly chewy texture and rich flavor that holds its own under the bounty of toppings.

Readers' Choice:

The Original Pancake House



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- 1 lb. Ground beef, bison or turkey
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- 4 T. Fig Chili Balsamic*, divided
- 2 T. Garlic Extra Virgin Olive Oil*
- Gorgonzola cheese crumble

Directions:

1. Combine meat with seasoning and 2 tablespoons of Fig Chili Balsamic.
2. Mix well, then form into 2 – 4 patties and refrigerate until ready to grill.
3. Add Garlic EVOO to heavy pan. Add onions and sauté over medium heat until onions are soft.
4. Reduce heat to low and add remaining 2 tablespoons Fig Chili Balsamic.
5. Stir frequently until onions are caramelized. Grill burgers. Top with caramelized onions and gorgonzola cheese.
6. Enjoy on a toasted bun or on its own!

* Ingredients available at *vomFASS* at Mall of America®





Best Coffee Shop

Angry Catfish Bicycle Shop and Coffee Bar

4208 28th Ave. S., Minneapolis
612-722-1538

angrycatfishbicycle.com

Angry Catfish is a beautiful mullet of a place: business in the front (a coffee shop where folks on laptops suck down seriously good coffee and tea), party in the back (a bike shop where you'll quickly spend all your money on fun/functional accessories). We love 'em both, but we're here to talk coffee—and oh, does AC do coffee well. Kickin' cold brew? Check. Lovely pour-overs? Check. Unforgettable seasonal drinks like a pale blue latte with butterfly pea flower, its layered pastel hues looking like a western mountain range at dusk? Yeah. Check and mate.

Readers' Choice: Spyhouse Coffee

Best Cafe

Cafe Astoria

180 Grand Ave., St. Paul
651-340-9471

cafeastoria-stpaul.com

Walk right in and get in line, because this corner coffee shop has climbed from relative obscurity to rampant popularity in practically no time. That's in part due to its Instagram, which provides those scrolling with a feast for the eyes before they ever set foot through the door. Rainbow peppermint lattes—no two alike—are a glowing, candy-colored dream. The oversized marshmallow roasting like

a sugary pig on a spit above a swirling s'mores latte is a winking promise that playing with your food is acceptable. But it's not all edible gold and candied violets. One sip of each signature drink—wonderful lavender-matcha-pistachio concoctions and spicy honey-and-cayenne Bee Stings—proves there's more to Astoria than what meets the eye.

Best Coffee Roaster

Dogwood Coffee Co.

Multiple locations

dogwoodcoffee.com

Where were you the first time you splurged on a bag of Dogwood Coffee beans and realized your life would never be the same? There's no returning to Folgers once you've succumbed to the siren song of these shiny, stylish bags. Oh, the wonders that lie therein. If you're not one for grinding and brewing at home, sample the majesty of these beans at the brand-new fourth Dogwood Cafe in the North Loop—a place so pretty you'll never want to leave. The best part of waking up? That's actually a honey-pistachio Spumoni Latte in your cup.

Best Hangover Cure

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2719 Nicollet Ave. S., Minneapolis
612-870-4739

quang-restaurant.com

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FOOD and DRINK

the point of utter devastation has been reached, and a to-go Vietnamese coffee from Quang Restaurant happens to possess this exact alchemy. Its wonders include rocket-fuel levels of caffeination (for post-nap), smoothed out by enough sweetened condensed milk to patch that electrolyte deficit, plus ice to make it all chuggable. (And possibly hydrating?) The magic potion takes 90 seconds to prepare, and comes in a hermetically sealed sippy-cup made for slinking home before a little snooze. Before going full-Gollum, grab a banh mi—or any of the myriad starchy goodies surrounding the register—with which to fill that looming gastrointestinal void upon waking.

Best Gimick

Gray Fox's Espresso Ink Printer
801 Marquette Ave. S., Minneapolis
612-886-3770
grayfoxcoffee.com

No, you probably don't need another reason to shell out for specialty coffee instead of bringing it to the office from home. Sorry! It's just that the drinks at Gray Fox, printed with patterns of fine espresso powder, are too cute to resist. The happy little trees dancing across the top of a Fox in the Woods Latte! The tiny lamb looking up at you from the foam of a star anise-infused Black Sheep! The strawberry-and-chocolate Marilyn Monroe, with a picture of everyone's favorite blond bombshell! Their patented Ripple Maker printer makes your morning pick-me-up even pick-me-upper. Our apologies to your soon-to-be-neglected travel mug.

Best Tea Shop

Sencha Uptown
2601 Hennepin Ave. S., Minneapolis
612-377-1700
senchateabar.com

Sencha's Uptown location proves that coffee shops don't have a monopoly in the cool hangout department. Sencha offers live music, walls adorned with works by local artists, and a funky tin ceiling. There's an encyclopedic binder of loose-leaf options with names like Fellini's Folly and Casablanca Twist, and watching a staffer spin the chandelier-style shelf of tea canisters to locate the right one is half the fun. The menu also features tea lattes, blended tea drinks, and iced teas—go wild and add unique flavors like kumquat, taro, or cantaloupe, plus a scoop of pearls made with local honey.

Best Party Bar

Truck Park
214 W. Seventh St.
St. Paul
651-340-8431
truckparkusa.com

Truck Park, with its food hall-style array of picnic tables, food trucks, and a central bar, is just big enough to get lost in. Which means it's the ideal place to: show up with your friends, buy your friends a drink, get separated from your friends, have a street taco, find your friends at the grilled cheese truck, split a grilled cheese, go back to the bar, lose your friends again, and run into them 30 minutes later as they're trying to devour the same 15-pound ice cream sandwich. The phalanx of food trucks makes you feel like you're at an outdoor concert but with the benefit of being indoors on a cold Minnesota night, and will inevitably have you pinballing back and forth between ribs, fried chicken, and cocktails. Prepare to eat too much, drink too much, and find something funny written on one of the bathroom doors.

Best Bar Trend

Self-policing

Vulnerable person walks into a bar. Nothing scandalous happens. It's not a good joke, but it's an increasingly sought-after outcome for women, people of color, LGBTQ folks, people with disabilities—anyone who doesn't look like they want to spend all night fighting and scoring chicks in the bar from *Road House*. There's progress being made along these lines, at least anecdotally. Bouncers aren't the only ones watching out for at-risk customers. Guys who say shitty things or act badly are getting called out, both in person and online. Sometimes they're kicked out or 86'ed entirely, or see their reputations ruined. Same goes for bar owners and staffers who don't act right. The only thing quicker than a bartender's hands is justice.

Best Mocktails

Eat Street Social
18 W. 26th St., Minneapolis
612-767-6850
eatstreetsocial.com

Abstaining from booze shouldn't mean settling for ice water or fountain pop. At Eat Street Social, bartenders mix craft sodas with the same care that's taken with the alcoholic side of the menu. With ingredients like cherry bark vanilla

bitters and molasses, each drink has a balance of flavors that makes it taste more like a cocktail than a Coke. There's even a house version of a Shirley Temple concocted with a sophisticated blend of pomegranate, peppercorn, and thyme.

Best Cocktails

Young Joni (and the Back Bar)
165 13th Ave. NE, Minneapolis
612-345-5719
youngjoni.com

We'll admit it, we're suckers for cocktails with clever names. And boy howdy, does the Back Bar at Young Joni have a bunch of them: On the current classifieds-themed menu, there's Birk's Tanning Salon Liquidation Sale, Nice Chat at the Y, Sousaphone Player Wanted, I Love New York T-Shirt. Of course, these monikers belong to boozy bevies with flavor profiles to back 'em up: "Fresh Fruit Caipirinha" and "Seasonal Negroni" might not get you grinning as you peruse the drink list, but order one to go with your wood-fired pizza, and you'll be smiling by the first sip.

Readers' Choice: Tattersall Distilling

Best Bloody Mary

The Bird
1612 Harmon Place,
Minneapolis
612-767-9495
thebirdmpls.rock

Sure, sometimes less is more. But sometimes, *more* is more. Especially when it comes to brunch cocktails. And while there are plenty of places in town to get bottomless mimosas with your eggs benny, bottomless bloodies are a rarer, more enticing surprise. The Bird's got 'em: During weekend brunching hours, fork over a mere \$10 (so long as you're buying food), and you'll be treated to a never-ending stream of spicy-savory hangover helper. You could be sweating and stretching through a Sunday morning yoga class—but isn't this a more enjoyable way to get the blood flowing?

Readers' Choice: Hell's Kitchen

Best Martini

The Lobby Bar at the
Saint Paul Hotel
350 Market St., St. Paul
651-228-3804
saintpaulhotel.com

You can taste history in each and every martini served in the Lobby Bar of the

venerable Saint Paul Hotel. These bartenders have mixed up thousands in their time, serving them to VIPs in politics, arts, sports, and high-society circles. But no matter your own social status, this is a welcome place for discerning drinkers who want a proper martini done right—a martini imbued with the lingering sting of hard liquor and a hint of upper-class aspirations. Even if you can't afford a stay in this stately landmark or a meal in the posh restaurant, you can get a taste of the good life at the bar.

Best Margarita

Tinto Kitchen
4959 Penn Ave. S., Minneapolis
612-354-2130
tintokitchen.com

When Tinto Kitchen first moved from its Lake Street location to the quieter intersection of 50th and Penn in south Minneapolis, it took owner Rebecca Illingworth Penichot a full six months to get a liquor license. This was before Minneapolis changed its laws on serving liquor in neighborhood restaurants, so she had to petition the state to be allowed to serve her array of strong, never-too-sweet margaritas. The hard work paid off—for her and for us—and now we can kick back with the Primero Impacto, a strong, top-shelf margarita, or the habanero-spiced Tinto Especial, and laugh at the benighted days when such luxuries were verboten.

Readers' Choice: Barrio

Best Speakeasy

The Velvetene
123 Second St. N., Stillwater
651-342-2571
thevelveteneSpeakeasy.com

There isn't a sign, but the Victrola at the base of the stairs serves as a tip-off that some vintage-style partying is going on behind the door. Stillwater's subterranean speakeasy recreates the half-illicit, half-luxurious atmosphere of the 1920s, with exposed brick walls, dim lighting, and crystal chandeliers. Settle into one the velvet sofas at the back and peruse a menu with drinks that would have been familiar to Prohibition-era imbibers: the Last Word, the Aviation, the Negroni. Or try one of the more contemporary house cocktails, like the Drink of Northern Aggression—a warming blend of bourbon, orange, cinnamon, and chai. Don't worry: The police won't show up to seize the stills. It just feels like they might.



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Larry L. • Eagan, MN • Reviewed September 2018

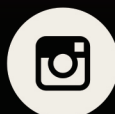
“Food was fantastic, wine was delicious. Awesome outdoor patio! Cannot speak highly enough of our experience there!”

Reviewed September 2018

“A gem in all ways! We had awesome bloody Mary's made with their pepper wine. One of the best bloody Mary's I have had.”

Reviewed July 2016

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Best Ice Bar

The Lexington
1096 Grand Ave., St. Paul
651-289-4990
thelexmn.com

With a sparkling ice cube trellis and multi-hued light show, the Lex's rooftop ice bar is pretty enough to make even the most diehard winter skeptic crack a smile. Snap a photo in the hulking, frozen throne and play a round of tabletop curling, a riff on shuffleboard with hockey pucks in lieu of curling stones. After finishing off a whiskey-spiked cider, snag a spot by the fireplace in the dining room downstairs and work the feeling back into your fingertips over another round.

Best Sports Bar

Bar Luchador
825 Washington Ave. SE, Minneapolis
612-379-1450
barluchador.com

Bar Luchador is more Monday Night Raw than Monday Night Football, and that's

what makes this pro-wrestling-themed bar worth seeking out. In its three years in Stadium Village, Luchador has become a sports entertainment Mecca, but you're just as likely to catch a Gophers home game or NBA playoff matchup on screens. You'll have to enjoy the game and your tray of Indie Smark Pork Nachos while an oafish masked wrestler snarls at you from the wall, but you don't go to Luch for standard-issue game day. Ditch the high-fiving jock dads and relive the Attitude Era here with your fellow sports fans.

Readers' Choice: Bunny's Bar & Grill

Best Neighborhood Bar in Minneapolis

331 Club
331 13th Ave. NE, Minneapolis
612-331-1746
331club.com

This busy restaurant/bar area of Northeast has plenty going on, from high-end dining to dives to family-friendly eat-and-drink joints. That's why it's impressive that 331 stands out as the best place to walk in and



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bump into someone you know, or half-know, even if it's just because you made claustrophobia-induced small talk in line for a beer the last time you were here. If the signature mark of a neighborhood joint is how many regulars come back to escape the house and enjoy each other's company, 331 passes that test with the ease of someone flicking a switch to put on some tunes.

Best Neighborhood Bar in St. Paul

Brunson's Pub
956 Payne Ave., St. Paul
651-447-2483
brunsonspub.com

One of the first things you might notice upon entering Brunson's Pub is the signed thank-you from the local squirt hockey team. Or the 20-seat bar that stretches from one end of this Payne-Phalen pub to the other. Or the vintage Hamm's memorabilia, a nod to the brewery that once thrummed along on St. Paul's East Side. Or maybe the smiling patrons, the friendly servers, or the scratch-made food on the tables—from \$1 seasoned pretzels to handsome bar

burgers. Whatever you pick up on initially, you'll feel an easy comfort, and you'll swear this joint's been a neighborhood institution since before you were born. But it's a relative newcomer—opened by longtime local barman Thomas LaFleche and his wife, Molly, in 2017—and a very welcome addition to Payne Avenue.

Best New Bar

Eastside Eat + Drink
305 S. Washington Ave., Minneapolis
612-208-1638
eastsidempls.com

"But Eastside isn't a new bar!" you cry. And yes, you, with your eagle eyes and your mind like a steel trap, you are correct. Eastside Eat + Drink originally opened in 2015 in downtown Minneapolis. But last year, the menus were given a heavenly breath of new life, courtesy of Jamie Malone. The celebrated local chef, who also revamped and revived south Minneapolis' Grand Cafe, swooped in to overhaul the food and drink program with a bit of old-school glamour and a lot of fun. (Eating shrimp cocktail and

drinking boozy punch out of a golden swan? Yes, that feels right.) The name stayed the same, but this is an entirely new bar. Go introduce yourself.

Best Pub

Brit's Pub
1110 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis
612-332-3908
britspub.com

We should probably label this one "Best Pubs" plural if we're going to give it to Brit's, such is the breadth of its offerings. Lawn bowling outdoors when it's nice out; a cramped side room perfect for a loud, tense Saturday afternoon soccer or rugby event; an oft-packed, high-ceilinged main room; a decidedly more chill upstairs; yet another spacious upstairs barroom. If you can't find your place at Brit's, you can't find your place in downtown Minneapolis. This being Nicollet Mall, there may be douchebags, sure—but you will be fortified by a fatty English food menu and appropriate drink. Try on a stiff upper lip. It's always worked for the Brits.

Best Dive Bar

Half Time Rec
1013 Front Ave., St. Paul
651-488-8245
halftimerec.com

If St. Paul had a Cheers, it'd be Half Time Rec. The well-worn watering hole on Front Avenue is a place out of time. With Friday meat raffles, pull tabs, and pre-recession tap prices, it could exist anywhere or in any era, and it'd still be the first place you'd go for a burger and a beer. Take your dad here to celebrate his retirement. Take your cousin here to celebrate her 21st birthday. If you're a human being with a mouth and a wallet, you'll feel like you belong.

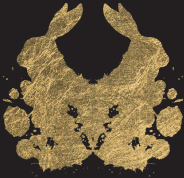
Readers' Choice: Grumpy's Northeast

Best Wine Bar

Terzo
2221 W. 50th St., Minneapolis
612-925-0330
terzompls.com

With over 300 bottles hailing from all across Italy, Terzo has a wine program




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that will please every palate. There's an impressive by-the-glass selection, which rotates frequently and focuses on classic and intriguing sips from various regions. Then there's Terzo's setting: This intimate bar will have you looking over your shoulder to make sure you didn't stumble in off some Venetian side street. Swing by during happy hour for ch glasses and tasty Italian bar snacks such as arancini, olives, and chips with aioli, and you'll find yourself yearning to linger over another glass of prosecco. It's the littlest Italy, right here in Minneapolis.

Best Bartender

Jonathan Janssen at Lat14 Asian Eatery (and Gori Gori Peku)
8815 Seventh Ave. N.
Golden Valley
763-400-7910
lat14.com

Knowledgeable, professional, and patient. That's Jonathan Janssen. At Gori Gori Peku, Kado no Mise's upstairs whiskey bar, Janssen answered enough of our questions about Japanese spirits that he should be awarded some kind of medal. And the drinks there—whether neat, on the rocks, or mixed—were always artfully crafted and elegantly delivered. Though he's since moved on, bringing his A-game to Golden Valley's new-ish hotspot Lat14, we'd be remiss not to recognize the time he spent making Gori Gori Peku a North Loop icon worth seeking out.

Best Beer Selection in a Bar

Grumpy's Northeast
2200 Fourth St. NE
Minneapolis
612-789-7429
grumpys-bar.com/northeast

Last year spelled the end for the downtown Grumpy's on Washington Avenue (yay, more condos!), but the Northeast location continues to thrive as a destination for choosy beer nerds. Though it may look like a dingy hole in the wall, Grumpy's has a carefully maintained tap list and tallboy selection, with rare infusions and casks rotating in with the standard dive-bar delights. Unlike some beer bars, Grumpy's comes with zero ego. Here you can sit quietly in the glow of a neon Grain Belt sign and sip a fruited Belgian sour alongside an extra-crispy Heggies. It's the way beer was meant to be enjoyed.

Best New Brewery

Ursa Minor Brewing
2415 W. Superior St., Suite B, Duluth
218-481-7886
ursaminorbrewing.com

The Duluth brewing scene is like a hydra: For every brewer who's trained, two new breweries are spawned. Brewer Mark Hugus cut his teeth at Fitger's Brewhouse before working with brother Ben and GM Andrew Scignoli to open Ursa Minor in September 2018. From their velvety oatmeal stout—Mark's Breakfast—to their expertly simple cream ale, Dad Jams, the newly minted brewery shows maturity well beyond its months of production. But that doesn't mean the Hugus brothers and their team don't know how to have fun: Ursa Minor has distinguished itself by being unafraid to chuck some levity into the tap list. Belgian dubbel Ewok Cuddles might inspire a giggle, but it's a serious exhibit of this brewery's top-class talent.

Best Suburban Brewery

Junkyard Brewing
1416 First Ave. N., Moorhead
701-936-5545
junkyardbeer.com

Junkyard may be three and a half hours from the Twin Cities, but the folks at this Moorhead hype factory have positioned it as an unmissable part of the Minneapolis-St. Paul brewing scene. They've tantalized city-dwelling beer fans by publicizing their liquor store drops, leading hop-motivated hunters to track their every move in hopes of getting a fresh crowler of King Size peanut butter stout or one of their decadent Shake-O-Matic milkshake IPAs. This year, they teamed up with Modist Brewing for a two-part stout series, teasing Minneapolisans with the delectable genius strokes they're missing while co-owners Dan and Aaron Juhnke ply their magic faraway on the North Dakota border.

Best Brewery

Wild Mind Artisan Ales
6031 Pillsbury Ave. S., Minneapolis
612-345-4514
wildmindales.com

Head brewer Mat Waddell and his team at Wild Mind excel at every single aspect of what a brewery needs to do to thrive in 2019. They respect the classics, they hypebeast shamelessly, and they brew with limitless creativity. Hazy IPAs, wild sours, imperial stouts—Wild Mind pulls

FOOD and DRINK

them all off with class-leading aplomb. But the seed of their greatness is their fearlessness. Yes, they trend-hop with the best in the industry, but it's trailblazing beers like their coolship sour or zero IBU IPA that show you this team is out to change Minnesota brewing in ways their peers can't even anticipate.

Best Beer

Forager Pudding Goggles
1005 Sixth St. NW, Rochester
507-258-7490
foragerbrewery.com

Forager crowlers trade like baseball cards on the secondary market, and Pudding Goggles is like a Derek Jeter rookie card. A prize of the Rochester brewery's irregular release schedule, Pudding Goggles is emblematic of what an imperial porter should be. Rich, viscous, and incredibly smooth for its 10.3% ABV, Forager adds to an idyllic profile by mixing in cinnamon and coconut. Then they let the beer sit in honey-soaked bourbon barrels until it's thick enough to spread on toast. Is it a breakfast beer? A dessert beer? The answer is: both.

Readers' Choice: Surly Furious

Best Beer (Limited Release)

Tin Whiskers Nut Goodie Porter
125 E. Ninth St., Unit 127, St. Paul
651-330-4734
twbrewing.com

When Tin Whiskers set out to make the quintessential St. Paul beer, they enlisted the help of vintage candymakers Pearson's. Their decadent maple, chocolate, and peanut butter porter was picked as the Best Collaboration at the 2018 Minnesota Craft Brewers Guild Autumn Brew Review, so the two St. Paul stalwarts knew they had something special on their hands. Nut Goodie Porter was re-released in cans in October for a short run that had nostalgic trick-or-treaters running to the Liquor Boy with pillowcases outstretched. Many sweet tooths were left unsatisfied, but all is not lost: The two Silver City stewards just released a Salted Nut Roll Ale.

Best Taproom

Bauhaus Brew Labs
1315 Tyler St. NE, Minneapolis
612-276-6911
bauhausbrewlabs.com

Gemütlichkeit got a facelift last year when Bauhaus Brew Labs finished up the renovations to their already class-leading taproom.

Not only did Bauhaus streamline their tap system and menu signage, but they also upgraded their lighting and added much-welcomed table service. All this combined with the free arcade games and open-air post-industrial patio. Whether they're hosting the Pupper Bowl, independent wrestling, or a six-year-old's birthday party, you can bet the Bauhaus crew is putting on the most accessible good time out of any brewery in Minnesota.

Readers' Choice: Surly Brewing Co.

Best Beer Trend

Pastry Stouts

You know what's better than eating a double-fudge cupcake? Drinking one. This was the year brewers finally got it and started chucking every sugary adjunct they could find into their dark beers to emulate a fresh-baked dessert. Fuck a mocha stout: Barrel Theory is pitching baklava into their mash tun. Even Surly got in on the fun, turning tiramisu into an obnoxiously fun limited release. Sure, the brew days on these malt-heavy monstrosities are long, but the yield is a pint of heaven.

Best Distillery

Lawless Distilling Company
2619 28th Ave. S., Minneapolis
612-276-1000
lawlessdistillingcompany.com

In October, the drink you ordered at Lawless might've arrived on a bed of glowing rocks, or been garnished with a bloodcurdling scream from your bartender. By the next month, they'd traded spook for Santa with Miracle at Lawless, the annual holiday-themed pop-up that makes it look like an elf on uppers decorated the cocktail room. And in the dead of winter, it was summertime vibes all the way: Bomb Pops in your glass, Hawaiian shirts on the staff. Minneapolis' most mirthful distillery puts the fun in fundamentals better than any peewee coach, with a lineup of top-shelf spirits (we're big fans of the Greenway Gin, especially) plus the know-how to craft drinks—and an overall experience—you won't soon forget.

Readers' Choice: Tattersall Distilling

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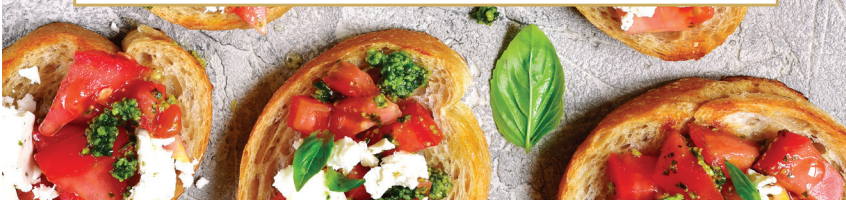
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craft beer, you've likely pinned Elevated Beer Wine & Spirits in Minneapolis on your Google Maps app. This Hiawatha booze shop is an ark worth genuflecting before. Fresh, rare tallboys pile in the doorway, tempting you with their fast-turning allure. Out-of-state finds gleam in the light of the cold case, stocked in endless, resplendent rows. To the right are racks upon racks of cut-rate-price liquor for the evenings when you just can't afford (or metabolize) any more DDH IPAs. Valhalla achieved.

Readers' Choice: Surdyk's Liquor & Cheese Shop

Best Cheap Eats

Boludo
3749 Nicollet Ave., Minneapolis
612-965-2858
boludoempanadas.com

At Boludo, the wee pocket of a restaurant nestled between Finer Meats butcher shop and Nighthawks diner on Nicollet Avenue, the \$8 in your billfold will buy you two golden, flaky empanadas stuffed with your choice of ham and cheese, spinach and cheese, beef picadillo, creamed leeks and gorgonzola, or chicken and peppers. They're cheap, they're filling, they're a grab-and-go breeze, and they're made by veritable dough master and Argentina native Facundo De Fraia. Got time to sit and eat? Snag a table (if one's available; there are roughly 20 seats) and try the Faina Completa: a hearty chick-pea pancake topped with cheese, onion,

and chimichurri and served with a small green salad. It'll set you back just \$7.

Best Happy Hour (After Work)

Murray's
26 S. Sixth St., Minneapolis
612-339-0909
murraysrestaurant.com

A swanky downtown steakhouse might not scream "bargain," but the happy hour deals at Murray's in Minneapolis make it a penny-pincher's paradise. From 4 to 7 p.m. every weekday, the lounge offers \$4-\$5 pints of the good stuff (Fulton, Surly, Steel Toe), \$5-\$6 glasses of wine, and \$4-\$8 cocktails, including a mean \$6 martini. The food is equally frugal: Get a platter of fat smoked chicken wings for \$6, a basket of truffle fries and four dipping sauces for \$5, sliders for \$4 a pop, or a steak burger with chips for \$10. It's not just day-drinking fun; it's good financial sense.

Readers' Choice: Red Cow

Best Happy Hour (Late Night)

Hai Hai
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612-223-8640
haihaimpls.com

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satisfying to wind down your day in vacation land with a drink in hand, still light years away from your everyday worries. Can't get out of town just now? Hai Hai is the next best thing. In the verdant dining room of this northeast Minneapolis oasis, you'll order up a cheap cocktail and transport yourself straight to southeast Asia. No one should go hungry on vacation—real or pretend—so dive in on the reduced price sticky rice, adobo pork ribs, and crispy rice salad. And you have to take advantage of the 10 p.m. to close time slot to get the Vietnamese “pizza” (\$5.50)—grilled rice paper topped with egg, pork, scallions, aioli, and chili jam—only available during the later happy hour of the day.

Best Late Night Eats

Taqueria La Hacienda
334 E. Lake St., #101, Minneapolis
612-822-2715
taqueriaslahacienda.com
Open 24 hours on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, La Hacienda will satisfy your 3 a.m. tacos al pastor craving. Prepare to

be dazzled by the glistening meat cones topped with juicy pineapple slices, begging to be slid into soft corn tortillas and topped with chopped onion, cilantro, and a lime wedge for squeezin'. Or, grab a fat torta, the size of two fists, stuffed to the edges with meats and melted cheese and toasted to a crisp golden brown. Suck it all down with a horchata, and you'll be crawling into bed with a full belly and wide smile.

Best Drunk Food

Mesa Pizza Dinkytown
1323 Fourth St. SE, Minneapolis
612-436-3006
mesapizzamn.com
Let this cramped little shop in the heart of Dinkytown be your last stop after a drunken late-night adventure. They know just what you need, and that's a single gigantic, over-the-top slice. Macaroni and cheese pizza? That's your three favorite things right now. A slice with cajun chicken and mashed potatoes affectionately called the Southern Gentleman? You didn't know you needed it until you

realized it exists. Chicken, broccoli, and Alfredo sauce? Why not—you're in a very free frame of mind. After you grab your cheesy savior, hunker down on one of the barstools and watch the parade of people bathed in neon outside, as you sleepily munch with the detached, zoned-out comfort of a kid staring at an aquarium.

Best Dining Trend

Dining That Does Good
At a growing number of Twin Cities restaurants, a meaningful mission is as much a part of the experience as the menu or decor. There's All Square, the south Minneapolis sandwich shop that hires the formerly incarcerated and provides personal and professional development. Fig + Farro calls itself a “plant-based restaurant with a mission,” where you'll learn about your carbon footprint and tuck into some seriously good vegan comfort food. Provision Community Restaurant is about to be the first full-service pay-what-you-can eatery in town (one of only a handful around the country), while Coffee Rehab—a safe, booze-

free cafe that exists to support people in recovery—looks to land an address. A hearty thank you to all these folks for making it easier than ever to eat well while spending ethically.

Best Airport Eats

Surdyk's Flights
MSP Terminal 2, 7150 Humphrey Dr., Minneapolis
612-727-1393
surdyksflights.com/terminal-2
Terminal 2 may have fewer dining options than its counterpart, but it's smaller and less crowded—and it has Surdyk's Flights. Need a sandwich to go? They've got some of the best in the game. Want a glass of cava, an Old Fashioned, or a beer? Sidle up to the bar or relax on their “patio.” Evoking the spirit of their spacious store in Northeast is no simple feat, but from the charcuterie to the hefty sandwiches to the wall of wines, they've gathered a thoughtfully curated combo of the best they have to offer. And the wine flights! From \$15-\$22 for three pours, the flights are a mini wine education in themselves.



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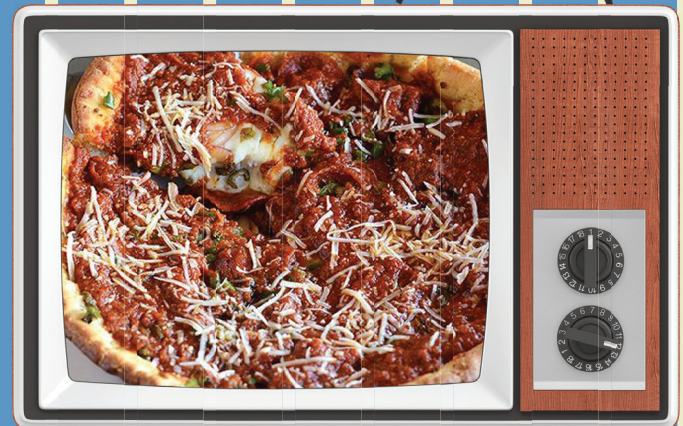
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Best Skyway Eats

Walkin' Dog

618 Second Ave. S., Minneapolis
612-436-0055

walkindog.com

This no-frills Chicago dog stand hidden in a first-floor corner of the Northstar Center is the area's most underrated snack spot. It's been around for almost 30 years, hawking a handful of spins on classic Vienna Beef wieners and an imposing selection of milkshakes. Ketchup and hot peppers are the closest the menu gets to a vegetable, but there's no need to overdress the original on-the-go meal. Running off to meet a client? Take a naked hot dog on a bun. Hate your co-workers? Have some sauerkraut and spicy mustard, you sour kraut. (Owner Dave Magnuson, the self-professed "Grand Poobah of the Weenie World," has a passion for dad jokes.) Extras include beans and potato salad, popcorn, and chocolate chip cookies—nothing too serious. You may try it because it's convenient, but you'll keep coming back for that ballpark feel.

Best Pop-Up

Onyx Culinary Collective
1210 W. Broadway Ave., Minneapolis
onyxculinarycollective.com

With something of a soul food boom going on in the Twin Cities right now (see: Funky Grits, Mama Sheila's, Soul Bowls), Onyx Culinary Collective still manages to add something a little different to the conversation. The pop-up brings a taste of the South to north Minneapolis—events are held in the Breaking Bread Cafe & Catering space—where last summer's series "The Evolution of African Cuisine" highlighted everything from Prince's favorite foods to the power of shared family traditions. OCC hopes to bring attention to the fact that Minnesota has few black-owned restaurants and lift up African American chefs—and they're doing it with some damn good food.

Best State Fair Food

Garlic Fries at the Ball Park Cafe
Underwood Street between Dan Patch and Carnes Avenues
651-288-4400
mnstatefair.org

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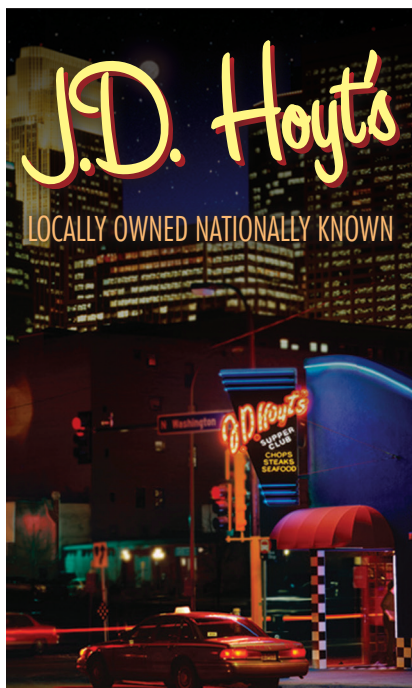
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FOOD and DRINK



what is our deal at the fair? Even at less crowded times, fellow fairgoers are right up in your face, their exuberance wiping out all boundaries. One solution: severe garlic breath. (This may not work in livestock barns.) This basket at the Ball Park, a venue marking its 20th fair this year, is full of crisp, salty, yummy thin-cut fries, smothered with enough chopped garlic to ward off a YA series' worth of vampires. Wash it all down with a sugar-rimmed Lift Bridge Mini Donut Beer, and deploy your new weapon only when necessary.

Readers' Choice: Original Cheese Curds

Best Food Truck

Potter's Pasties
 1820 Como Ave. SE, Minneapolis
 612-819-3107
potterspasties.com

Thank goodness Potter's has multiple food trucks to feed the masses, camping out at breweries, pulling up to parks, and imbuing city corners with a little Cornish flair. What's better than feeling a pasty's flaky dough between your teeth? The sensation as the tender shell gives way to marvelously sauced meats or vegetables, juices soaking into and flavoring the dough? Though not much bigger than a hand, each pasty is a meal in itself, meaning one will do you for lunch in the park or dinner at a taproom. A ginger mint limeade or one of the Vietnamese coffees should round out your meal.

Readers' Choice: Potter's Pasties

Best Lunch

Naf Naf Grill
 Multiple locations
nafnafgrill.com

Though not technically a local—the chain began in Chicago before spreading to Minnesota and six other states—Naf Naf has staked a claim to best lunch in the Twin Cities by virtue of its geographic footprint alone. With locations in downtown Minneapolis (three!), Eagan, Stadium Village, Maple Grove, the Mall of America, and beyond, the Mediterranean fast-casual spot is an easy yes to the question: "Is it worth it to buy my lunch today?" Besides, the hefty chicken shawarma platter costs less than \$10. That's a steal for this portion of tender marinated chicken, hummus, crispy falafel, fluffy pita, rice, and veggies.

Readers' Choice:
French Meadow Bakery

Best Patio

W.A. Frost and Company
 374 Selby Ave., St. Paul
 651-224-5715
wafrost.com

Illuminated by strands of lights and twinkling candles, the leafy patio at W.A. Frost and Company is a classic that never goes out of style. Stepping out onto its secluded surface feels like tumbling back into the Gilded Age, when the neighborhood was in its heyday and F. Scott Fitzgerald wandered the streets in search of literary

FOOD and DRINK

inspiration. Linger over the six-course tasting menu, savor an elegant weekend brunch, or sip a glass of wine while indulging in the impressive selection of artisan cheeses—perhaps while delving into a copy of *This Side of Paradise*.

Best-Kept Secret

Russian Tea House

1758 University Ave. W., St. Paul
651-646-4144

Despite the line stretching out the door, Midway's Russian Tea House is easy to miss. For four-plus decades, the husband-wife team of Nikolai and Linda Alenov has served homemade vereniki stroganoff, pel'meni, borscht, "Russian hamburgers," and more from the lower floor of a white house alongside a Wendy's parking lot. These days, they're open just four hours each week: Fridays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Linda takes orders with grace while Nikolai steadily assembles each meal behind her, including frozen items many customers bring home. (They shuttered this winter, but plan to reopen soon.) Everything is carried upstairs on trays and enjoyed from disposable cups and bowls on the house's top floor. Sometimes, unpredictably, there's an accordionist. It's the kind of charming operation that feels like a treasure—sustaining the heart as much as the body.

Best Bar Food

The Lowbrow

4244 Nicollet Ave., Minneapolis
612-208-0720
thelowbrowmpls.com

The Lowbrow has the appetizer game on lock: Bison chili cheese fries are a blessing and the nachos come piled high with toppings. They also know how to crank out quality burgers with interesting flavor combos (hello fried pickles) and spot-on topping ratios (read: It's not a burger that requires an unhinged jaw). And without an upcharge, instead of fries you can get a vinegary side salad with a tart dressing that works well at balancing the rich burger. But best of the bar snacks are the jalapeño poppers, which you can order individually (!) on the side. They're dead-simple—fresh jalapeños, sliced open and stuffed with cream cheese before being dipped into batter and fried—but these treats are perfectly crisp and pack some serious heat since the seeds aren't removed. With each bite closer to the stem, the sweat starts to pour from your brow and your nose starts to twitch. Unfortunately for you, they're so good you can't stop eating.

Best Tacos

Centro

1414 Quincy St. NE, Minneapolis
612-345-5527
popolvuhmpls.com

While the upscale wood-fired cuisine at Popol Vuh gets much of the (well-deserved) buzz, the tacos next door at Centro share the same quality ingredients, attention to detail, and overall scarfability. Meats—from chicken and chorizo to lamb and beef cheeks—are seasoned to perfection. Salsas are bold. In fact, we can't stop thinking about the peanut salsa atop the cured cactus taco, which comes loaded with a satisfying helping of mushrooms, kale, and caramelized onions. Add a plate of papas chingonas—roasted potatoes with chipotle mayo and cotija cheese—and it's a real fine meal.

Readers' Choice: Taco Cat

Best Barbecue

Animales Barbeque Co.

1121 Quincy St. NE, Minneapolis
347-661-5608
facebook.com/animalesbbqco

The history of Southern barbecue is one of pits and parking lots; even today you'll find some of the region's best at unassuming shacks on dusty farm roads or slowly smoking in the back of an old truck. What we're saying is: It makes sense that the current undisputed champ of the Twin Cities' barbecue game is Animales Barbeque Co., the colorful trailer that spends its weekends parked behind Able Brewing. It's actually a good thing this meaty operation runs only Thursday through Sunday, because the ribs and the pork belly and the sausages (ahem, "hot guts") are so good you'll want to eat them every damn day. And that's to say nothing of the cartoonishly large Meat Tornado, a burger special with beef, ribbons of bacon, rib ends, an absolute flood of cheese, and sugar-cured jalapeños ensuring it boasts flavors as big as it is tall. Which... might be about eight inches.

Readers' Choice: Revival

Best Sandwich

Hi-Lo Diner Crispy Chicken Sandwich

4020 E. Lake St., Minneapolis
612-353-6568
hi-lo-diner.com

Yeah, we know, Hi-Lo is the big savory doughnut restaurant. But hear us out: Forget the Hi Tops, order the chicken



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sandwich. You'll be rewarded with one of the most magnificently fried cuts of poultry in the Twin Cities, served hot, but not bubbling with grease. Hi-Lo does it simple, slotting that crunchy little bird breast between a pillowy brioche bun with some neon-green pickles. But where lesser sandwich lords would plop a ladle full of standard-issue mayo salad on top, Hi-Lo raises the ante with apple bacon coleslaw, elevating this chicken sandwich to the realm of the gods.

Best Burger

Bull's Horn Burger
4563 34th Ave. S., Minneapolis
612-208-1378
bullshornfoodanddrink.com

If you got a Big Mac as your starter Pokémon and raised it lovingly, battling from Pallet Town to Palate Town to become the top trainer, your level-100 pocket monster would be the Bull's Horn Burger. "It's perfect, no changes," the menu crows, and that bossy scrap of paper ain't lyin'. It's a beefy patty sandwiched inside a grilled, buttery bun. It's smeared with

a delightfully tangy "special sauce." It's the first time in recorded history we've been excited about shredded iceberg lettuce. Plus, unlike many of the city's canonical Best Burgers, it's not a wallet-deflater: This meaty marvel is just \$8.75. (If you're some kind of fancypants, you *are* permitted to add house-made American for a dollar, or throw bacon on there for an extra buck-fifty.)

Readers' Choice: Matt's Bar

Best Hot Dog

TILT Pinball Bar
113 E. 26th St., Suite #110, Minneapolis
612-236-4089
tiltpinballbar.com

We defy anyone to find a more thoughtful hot dog menu than the one TILT's kitchen team has put together. They've got a dog topped with cheesy pasta and bread crumbs and chives (the Mac N Cheese Dog), and another oozing with smoky Gruyere, smokier onions, and bacon (the O.G.B.). Want spicy? Get the Volcano Dog. Sweet? That's the Cider Maker, with Sociable Cider Werks apple

chutney. Surprising? How 'bout a hot dog boasting chimichurri and mozz, or one with a kimchi-Kewpie Mayo combo? If that still isn't good enough, then build your own, piling an all-beef Peterson Craft Meats base with your choice of more than 30 (!) different toppings.

Best Steak

Butcher & the Boar
1121 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis
612-238-8888
butcherandtheboar.com

Current culinary trends are enough to strike fear into the heart of any father. Small plates. Veggie-forward. Fast-casual. *Vegan*. Dad needn't worry: In downtown Minneapolis, there exists a bourbon, beer, and beef haven where he—and meat lovers of any age and gender—will feel right at home. Butcher & the Boar is an all-out protein wonderland: smoky filet mignon, a honking hunk of New York strip steak that's been aged for 40 days, Wagyu ribeye with fat undulating across its surface like a meaty topographical map. Go ahead: Indulge your carnivo-

rous side. You can always eat a carrot stick tomorrow.

Readers' Choice: Manny's Steakhouse

Best Fried Chicken

4 Bells
1610 Harmon Pl., Minneapolis
612-904-1163
4bells.com

Hello there. Have you heard the good news? That 4 Bells brought back its Southern Fried Chicken? It's true: 4 Bells brought back its Southern Fried Chicken. Corner Table founding chef-owner Scott Pampuch just took over the kitchen at this Loring Park seafood spot, imbuing the menu with a little more fun and a lot more influences from south of the Mason-Dixon line. And oh, that *chicken*. Served with honey lavender butter, a pair of sauces (Delta & Nashville Hot Honey), plus a biscuit and pickles (natch), it's the kind of platter that'll have northerners saying "y'all" and dusting off their cowboy boots. You might even find yourself cheering for the Titans. (Too far?)

Readers' Choice: Revival



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7129 10th St. N., Oakdale
651-730-7768
eatatdspot.com

If you're the kind of person who's overwhelmed by too many choices, D-Spot is not the place for you. Everyone else: Welcome to wing heaven. Enter the unassuming strip mall doors, and begin perusing the double-sided, laminated menu. Realize you have more than 70 options. Salivate. Decide whether you want sweet, savory, hot, or ruin-your-next-three-days spicy. Chuckle over offerings like the peanut butter, chocolate, and sea salt "Reese's" wings. Order. Don't forget liquids: You'll need them. Sit down. Watch as baskets of sizzling chicken go whizzing by. Salivate more. Rejoice as your quarry arrives, knowing that no matter what you went with, it's going to be good (though feeling especially confident if you went for the spicy stuff: the War Hammer, or the green curry Incredible Hulk). Stuff yourself. Sigh. Wonder why you haven't been making this trip to Oakdale more often.

Readers' Choice: Blue Door Pub

Best Pizza

Surly Pizza Upstairs
520 Malcolm Ave. SE
Minneapolis
763-999-4040
surlybrewing.com/pizza-upstairs

You know that person you hate because they're good at everything they try? That's Surly Brewing, baby! As if it wasn't enough to have one of the biggest, coolest taprooms in town, plus a roster of beers that keeps getting better and an annual festival so big they moved it to Wisconsin, now they've gone and opened our new favorite pizzeria. And oh, those flavors: The creamy clam-and-garlic Pioneer Hitchhiker. The herbaceous roasted mushrooms atop the Mama Fratelli. The sweet pepper/hot pepper dance that's happening on the honey-drizzled I'm Your Daddy, with those crispy pepperonis curling upwards like the beginnings of a smile... Ugh, no, you know what? We do resent them after all. No one should get to do so many things so well. Screw you, Surly.

Readers' Choice: Pizza Lucé

Best Fries

Meritage
410 St. Peter St., St. Paul
651-222-5670
meritage-stp.com

Nobody else is going to knock French fries out of the park quite like a French brasserie. For more than 10 years, Meritage has delighted guests with crispy golden frites and buttery Bearnaise dipping sauce. Is there a more refined place to plop down in front of a paper cone overflowing with fried potatoes? We can't think of one. And why waste time thinking, when Meritage is at the ready with the swipe-crunch-squish of a French fry done exactly right?

Readers' Choice: Red Cow

Best Salad

Geek Love Cafe
3032 Minnehaha Ave., Minneapolis
612-642-1267
geeklovecafe.com

"You probably won't need to order the full salad unless you want leftovers,"

we were warned the first time we dined at Geek Love—and boy, was that ever right. Nestled in the back of Moon Palace Books, this cafe crafts one heck of a satisfying salad. Take, for example, a romaine, radicchio, red onion, tomato, cucumber, chickpea, salami, parmesan, pepperoncini, and kalamata and sicilian olive combo. That's a meal right there, not some half-hearted attempt at pleasing vegetable lovers! And the literary names—*Beautiful Ruins*, *Fight Club*, *Sweet Valley High*—might even make ordering a healthy lunch a little more fun.

Best Pho

Pho 79
2529 Nicollet Ave. S., Minneapolis
612-871-4602
pho79mpls.com

There is no greater remedy for all your troubles than a steaming bowl of pho, and Pho 79 provides one of the best. The pho tái gau is the traditional fragrant broth with rice noodles and thin slices of beef and fat brisket, the slices offering a bit of chew while the brisket melts on the



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tongue, a nice meaty balance. A small plate of crisp Thai basil, jalapeño slices, and bean sprouts add crunch and heat to the rich meal. Pho 79's charm lies in its consistency: No matter what chaos is happening in the world, you know you can find a piping-hot bowl of pho that arrives at the table quickly, ready to warm your heart and soul.

Best Ramen

Moto-i
2940 Lyndale Ave. S.
Minneapolis
612-821-6262
moto-i.com

Moto-i's ramen bowls lean on the dense side, like clenched fists made of fresh, firm noodles packed with delicious trimmings—pickled red onion, marinated mushrooms, crispy duck skin—that could stand alone in quality. While it's difficult to find a richer, more aromatic shoyu broth than the one available at Moto-i, it's the brothless ensembles of roasted pork and fried tofu that distinguish this ramen menu from anything else the Twin Cities is serving up. Moto-i wants to do more than provide tasty iterations of classic flavors. Its lineup makes a principled statement for bold seasoning, a gratifying aesthetic, and the

continual evolution of age-old comfort food. (Doesn't hurt that brunch specials include two-for-one bloody Marys and mimosas.)

Readers' Choice: Ramen Kazama

Best Sushi

Kyatchi
3758 Nicollet Ave. S., Minneapolis
308 E. Prince St. #140, St. Paul
612-236-4429
651-340-5796
kyatchi.com

The rolls at Kyatchi are an elegant exercise in simplicity, allowing the richly flavored rice and delicate fish to take center stage. In addition to rolls, nigiri, and sashimi, the menu features something that's far less common to the Twin-Cities: oshizushi, or pressed sushi. (Try the salmon with lemon and tobiko.) There's even a nice range of vegetable-based rolls, including one made with pickled Japanese plum and another featuring house-made marinated calabash gourd, and you can swing by at happy hour for the budget-friendly chef's choice sushi combo. Also deserving of a shout-out? Every bite of seafood is sustainable, based on guidelines from watchdog organizations.

Readers' Choice: Fuji Ya



Best Seafood

Smack Shack
603 Washington Ave. N.
Minneapolis
612-259-7288
smack-shack.com

No one needs to tell you that Smack Shack's lobster rolls are on point—rich with meaty chunks of crustacean, they're what launched the eatery from food truck to brick-and-mortar building in 2013. But while lobster may be the initial claw—er, draw (where else can diners get it in the form of bisque, poutine, or guacamole?), don't overlook the other pescatarian options. You could go sophisticated, letting the halibut with lemon beurre blanc sauce glide across the taste buds, but you might have more fun if you gather a gang of buds, tie on some bibs, and spring for the seafood boil: a tangle of crab legs, shrimp, corn, and potatoes. (And, yes, lobster.)

Best Dessert

Thirsty Whale Bakery
4149 Fremont Ave. N.
Minneapolis
612-259-7168
thirstywhalebakery.com

Have you ever seen a cake that's better looking than most people? Step into Thirsty Whale, and you'll feast your eyes on dozens of them. The newish North Side bakery churns out downright gorgeous spongy and sugary treats. You can

walk in and pluck one from the case, but you might want to plan a little, because this place does show-stopping custom orders of all kinds: towering wedding cakes flecked with fresh flowers, a geode cake with glittering gemstones rippling down its marbled side, an owl-shaped one with icing feathers so realistic you'll swear you hear it hooting. Hoo? Hoo? Thirsty Whale Bakery, that's who.

Best Ice Cream

Sweet Science
Keg and Case Market,
928 Seventh St. W., St. Paul
Como Lakeside Pavilion,
1360 Lexington Pkwy. N., St. Paul
651-300-9333
sweetscienceicecream.com

Science ain't always sweet. (We've seen it tank the GPA of many a promising liberal arts student.) But in the case of Sweet Science founder and chef Ashlee Olds, it's never been sweeter. Olds puts her food science background to work, concocting small-batch, creative flavors with organic sugar and real fruit. It's a time-intensive undertaking that pays big dividends when it comes to creating bold, flavorful frozen treats. In the last year, the scoop shop—once available only at pop-ups and in grocery store freezer aisles—has debuted two brick-and-mortar locations of its own, meaning this gourmet ice cream is easier to find than ever. Stop by Keg and Case and get a flight, because you'll want to sample at least five flavors. Or ten.

Readers' Choice: Izzy's Ice Cream

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Best Chocolate

Mademoiselle Miel
342 Kellogg Blvd. W., St. Paul
651-226-4703
mademoisellemiel.com

The flourish of gold leaf on Mademoiselle Miel's artisan bon bons serves as the first hint that this is anything but an ordinary piece of chocolate. Crafted with single-origin chocolate and filled with honey sourced from St. Paul rooftop hives tended by chocolatier Susan Brown, each bite is an affordable taste of luxury. Other offerings include chocolate bars sweetened with maple sugar and honey hot cocoa bombs—simply stir into warm dairy or plant-based milk for a memorable mug of molten chocolate.

Best Mexican Restaurant

Taqueria Victor Hugo
5801 Nicollet Ave. S., Minneapolis
612-562-5990
taqueria-victor-hugo.business.site

Believe it: Tucked unassumingly into the window-lined storefront of Bobby &

Steve's Auto World in south Minneapolis is some of the city's finest Mexican food. From humble beginnings as a food truck (still in operation nearby), Taqueria Victor Hugo has expanded to a counter service set-up, with an impressive bar of salsas and fixins, and a casual but spacious dining area. The guy at the griddle keeps a tight menu of tacos, quesadillas, burritos, tortas, and alambres, filled with your choice from a formidable lineup of braised meats. The barbacoa is excellent, heaped high on doubled-up corn tortillas. For a special treat, come on Saturday or Sunday and grab a bowl of pozole or menudo while they last.

Readers' Choice: El Burrito Mercado

Best Ethiopian Restaurant

The Red Sea
320 Cedar Ave.
Minneapolis
612-333-1644
theredseampls.com

Are you looking for deeply spiced tibbs and meltingly tender cabbage? Injera that's defiantly fluffy even when soaked

with sauce from ater kik and siga wat? Look no further than the Red Sea. An impressive destination on its own, it's also ideal for a pre-show meal if you're headed to nearby Mixed Blood or the Cedar or Nomad. It's a vegetarian paradise of simmering samplers, curries, and meat-free sambusas; meat dishes are hearty, colorful, and rich. Order a few platters and some Ethiopian beer, and settle in to feast.

Best Indian Restaurant

Gorkha Palace
23 Fourth St. NE
Minneapolis
612-886-3451
gorkhapalace.com

Since the beginning, the cornerstone of this sunny powerhouse has been warm and personal service, never mind that the menu consists of 90 percent organic and local ingredients. Owner Rashmi Battachan still serves tables with the patience of a saint, pairing plates ("Get poori with that! It's a match made in heaven!") as if you were best friends. Like

this, two dishes at a time, Gorkha's built a cult following. Their paalak paneer is prepared differently than its pretenders, and it simply tastes superior: The spinach has texture, with a rounder garlic flavor and deeper spices rising at the end. Looking for something a little more traditional? The momos—purses stuffed with meat, spice, and vegetables—are legendary, as are the blistered baskets of naan. Come hungry. Leave smiling.

Best Chinese Restaurant

Tea House
2425 University Ave. SE
Minneapolis
612-331-8866
ourteahouse.com

Anyone who thinks the Midwest doesn't have authentic Chinese food is in serious need of a pilgrimage to Tea House. Luckily, this genre-defining restaurant is eager to educate. Located near the University of Minnesota, it primarily serves the exacting standards of an international student population seeking a taste of home—and China's a massive country, so



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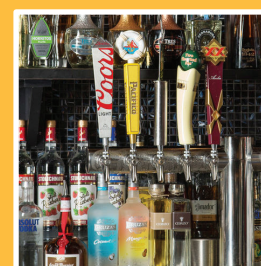


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that’s actually quite difficult to deliver. Tea House rises to the challenge with a menu that pays homage to home-style cuisines as diverse as the far-reaching cities it encompasses. There are those tear-inducing Szechuan sensations, hand-pulled noodles drenched in red-hot chili oil and peppercorns, Yangtze riverside variations on walleye, Xinjiang lamb seasoned with Middle Eastern spices, and red bean Cantonese desserts. It’s both a wonderful restaurant to visit if you’re lucky enough to have friends who enjoy pigging out together, and a surprisingly underrated date spot.

Readers’ Choice: Rainbow Chinese

Best Korean Restaurant

Cook St. Paul
1124 Payne Ave., St. Paul
651-756-1787
cookstp.com

Some of the most exciting food in the Twin Cities is coming out of a diner on Payne Avenue in St. Paul. For years, Eddie Wu of Cook St. Paul has brought diverse flavors—East Asian, Pacific Islander—to

his classic American diner in the form of regular pop-ups (recently, the tantalizing Ono Hawaiian Plates). But the cuisine that kicked it all off was Korean, a cookery he learned as an apprentice at Sole Cafe, and it remains his passion and the primary influence here. Find it on the regular menu, in everything from the gochu fruit with chili flakes and the bi bim bop, to the Korean pancakes and the build-your-own juseyo bowl. Our favorite? The decidedly fun Mac & Chi, a kimchi-laced macaroni and cheese to drool over.

Readers’ Choice: Hoban Restaurant

Best Vietnamese Restaurant

Pho Tau Bay
2837 Nicollet Ave. S.
Minneapolis
612-874-6030
photabay.us

Eat Street doesn’t end at 28th. Tucked behind a laundromat and adjacent to the Nicollet Kmart parking lot, Pho Tau Bay is isolated from the Vietnamese Walk of Fame that is Pho 79, Jasmine 26, Quang,

and My Huong, but the distance is in more than geography. Not only does Pho Tau Bay excel in 20 varieties of pho, but the menu is balanced with tender pork cuts served with cold vermicelli or over broken rice, homestyle rice porridge, and the most unforgettable fried egg rolls in the Twin Cities. Just beware the cursed horse painting that hangs above Table 5.

Readers’ Choice: Quang Restaurant

Best Thai Restaurant

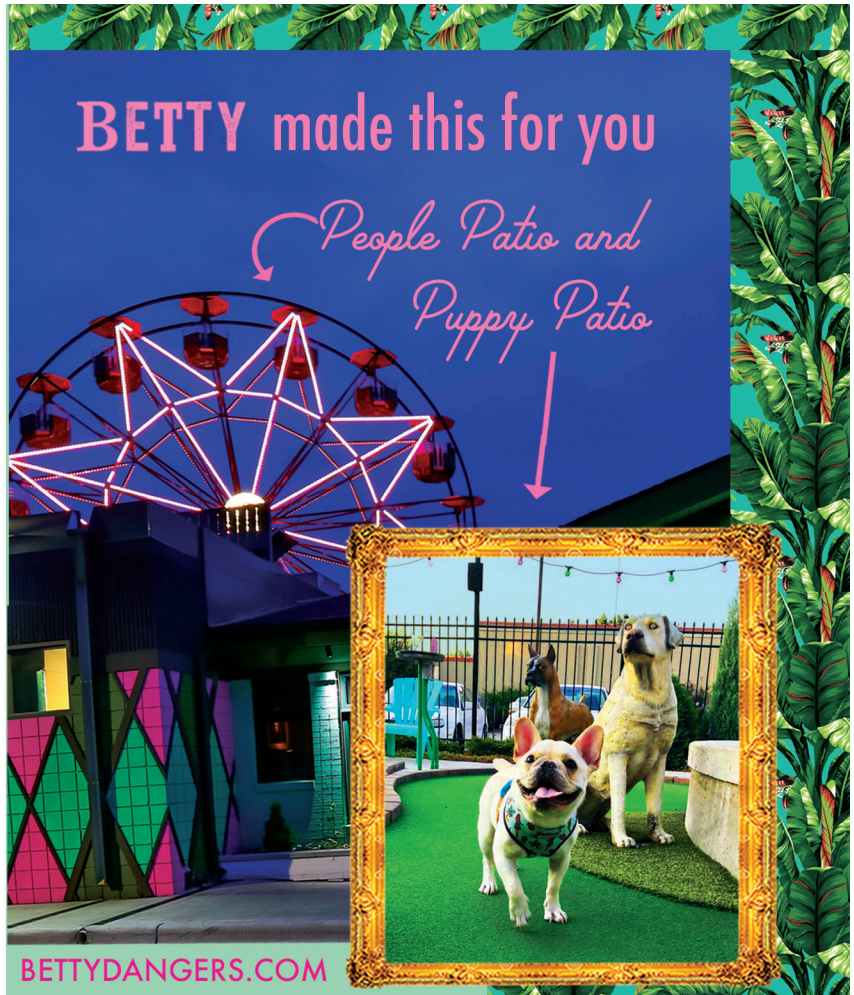
Ruam Mit Thai
475 St. Peter St.
St. Paul
651-222-7871
A mainstay of the downtown St. Paul lunch scene, Ruam Mit Thai accepts the midday influx of workers with ease. A starter of spring rolls—packed with fresh vegetables and accompanied by a savory, peanut-laden sauce—are the go-to appetizer. Order them with or without meat, an option that extends to pretty much all of the entrees, meaning vegetarians have a wealth of choices. Curries are deep with flavor, and vegetable stir-fries

are crisp and dressed with savory pools of sauce scented with ginger, garlic, soy, and fish sauce. This food is the perfect pick-me-up, whether you’re on your lunch break or out for dinner.

Best Middle Eastern Restaurant

Khyber Pass Café
1571 Grand Ave., St. Paul
651-690-0505
khyberpasscafe.com

Reflecting a cuisine known for its blend of cultures and influences, the menu of Afghani fare at Khyber Pass Café feels like the best of all possible worlds. Meat lovers can feast on lamb kebabs and spiced meatballs; for vegetarians, there’s a sizable selection of vegetable and legume-based dishes. Whatever the entree, be sure to order a chutney on the side—made with fruits, nuts, herbs, and vegetables, they add an additional layer of flavor to each dish. Can’t pick just one? Start with the chutney sampler, and use the pieces of pillow-soft bread to soak up every last drop.



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Best Italian Restaurant

Hyacinth

790 Grand Ave., St. Paul

651-478-1822

hyacinthstpaul.com

Open just eight months, Hyacinth has already made a name for itself among the mosaic of Italian food in the Twin Cities. Its cozy size creates intimacy between diners and staff, allowing your shoulders to settle and for you to maybe even ask your neighbor what they ordered because it looks so good. Pasta here is truly al dente, snapping back at you a little, demanding attention to its texture and flavors. And the menu changes up pretty regularly, so you always have a reason to go back and treat yourself to a new appetizer or the new cocktail they're mixing up.

Readers' Choice: Cossetta's

Best Mediterranean

The Naughty Greek

181 Snelling Ave. N., St. Paul; 2400

University Ave. W., St. Paul

651-219-4438

thenaughtygreek.com

Good things come in blue-and-white paper packages. We're talking, of course, about gyros at the Naughty Greek: handheld, scarfable wonders of squishy pita wrapped around spit-turned pork or chicken or beef or falafel—with fries inside! Prefer to split a few small plates? We can respect that choice. Especially when said plates are only about five bucks each and include the miraculous honey-drizzled Baked Greek Feta. Don't sleep on the salty, seasoned Naughty Fries, either, topped with feta and served with a side of sinfully good dipping cheese. Sometimes good things come on top of blue-and-white paper, too.

Best Prix Fixe Menu

Tongue in Cheek

989 Payne Ave., St. Paul

651-888-6148

tongueincheek.biz

The approachable five-course tasting menu at Tongue in Cheek features inventive preparations with global influences—think a blueberry encapsulation with almonds and basil, potato kimchi cakes, and scallops with squid ink mustard and mushroom mousse. While a couple of dishes are carried over from the main menu, most are only offered via the prix fixe version, which switches up every few months to keep things interesting. Also noteworthy? The all-vegan iteration of the tasting menu shows the same level

of imagination and skill, so plant-based eaters can indulge as well.

Best Fine Dining

Popol Vuh

1414 Quincy St. NE, Minneapolis

612-345-5527

popolvuhmpls.com

Break the stranglehold western Europe has on fine dining! What about ancient Mexican cooking traditions makes them any less sophisticated in flavor or presentation than a platter of garlicky snails? Fie, we say! Popol Vuh is here to prove that point in a most delicious fashion. Chef Jose Alarcon offers a four-course tasting menu (\$45) of the elevated Mexican food he's serving, from steak tartare on house-made masa tortillas to opah fish in vegan guajillo sauce. Shifting his focus with the seasons, Alarcon captures an of-the-moment spirit that makes each meal feel special. Drink polished mezcal cocktails by the glow of the wood-fired grill, and enjoy an upscale dining experience unlike any other in the Twin Cities.

Best Chef

Daniel Del Prado

You likely knew—and loved—his food before you ever knew his name. Daniel Del Prado was the executive chef behind your favorite dishes at Bar La Grassa and Burch Steak and Pizza before setting his own course with Martina in 2017 and then Colita in 2018. With his new ventures, Del Prado stepped into the limelight to be the face of some of the Twin Cities' best dining. Martina, with its exceptional (and affordable) bar program and its Italian-Argentinian menu, brought another culinary hotspot to the Linden Hills neighborhood. With Colita, he conjured an upscale Latin barbecue experience with playful cocktails to match. After years working behind the burners for local food legend Isaac Becker, Del Prado is now a household name in his own right.

Best Service

Mucci's Italian

786 Randolph Ave., St. Paul

651-330-2245

muccisitalian.com

Can the wee Mucci's help the fact that lots of people want to eat its tasty food? No. But the staff can help how they treat you while you wait for a table, and in this regard, Mucci's is tops. Not only do they factor the waitlist into their accommodations—leave your phone number, grab a

drink at one of the nearby bars, come back when they call you—their warm demeanor is an inducement to relax, to make the wait part of the experience. Once you're seated, the customer-focused service only continues. Owner Tim Niver has spent more than 30 years in hospitality, and it shines through every detail of this St. Paul gem. On a late-night visit, we were thrice encouraged to stay as long as we liked, even as the crew was tidying up. (We were far too Midwestern to take them up on it, but the offer was genuine.)

Readers' Choice: Spoon and Stable

Best Splurge

Demi
212 N. Second St.
Minneapolis
612-404-1123
demimpls.com

Coastal cities may be more accustomed to dinner prices like Demi's, but Minnesota collectively gasped at the news that this Gavin Kaysen North Loop prix-fixe would set them back a minimum of \$95 per person when it opened in February. We get it! This isn't an everyday meal. Still, it's nice to have the option to splurge when the occasion calls for it, and the splendor matches the price tag here: Everything from the custom tableware to the individualized service to the meticulously crafted and plated courses feels like something precious. When the evening calls for decadence, Demi delivers—and they haven't had much trouble booking tables.

Best Restaurant in Minneapolis

Martina
4312 Upton Ave. S., Minneapolis
612-922-9913
martinarestaurant.com

Few restaurants have the steady magnetism and transportive power of two-year-old Martina in southwest Minneapolis. At night, the lush greenery, moody lighting, and bustling energy will make you feel as though you stepped off the streets of Buenos Aires into a sleek after-hours bar; on Sunday morning, the space is a bright and airy atrium for a convivial brunch. Scene-setting is only the first clue that this Linden Hills star is something special. The cocktails are works of art in composition and presentation. The Italian-Argentinian menu is filled with gems, from grilled meats and seafood to luscious pastas to deeply satisfying empanadas. The tables are packed and

the servers are skilled and friendly. Helmed by Daniel Del Prado, the best chef in the Twin Cities, Martina is the best restaurant in Minneapolis.

Readers' Choice: Spoon and Stable

Best Restaurant in St. Paul

In Bloom
928 W. Seventh St.
St. Paul
651-237-9630
inbloomstp.com

Don't deny your nose when you walk into Keg & Case and smell that cozy campfire scent... instead, follow it as it leads you to In Bloom's comforting corner. Park it at the gorgeous stone counter and bask in the warm glow of the hearth, from which all bites emerge shrouded in a kiss of smoke after being cooked over an open flame. This is a dinner-and-a-show experience, where you'll see staff artfully plating apps like the salty, explosively flavored "Roasted Things" veggie snack and hefting around hunks of locally sourced venison. Enjoy wine from the extensive (and rapidly growing) global collection, or sip a classic cocktail with your meal. And while you're welcome to sleep in, you shouldn't sleep on their brunch, when you'll indulge in one of the pillowy Dutch Baby pancakes—served piping hot in its own personal cast iron pan.

Readers' Choice: The Lexington

Best Transformation

Muffuletta to Nico's
2260 Como Ave., St. Paul
651-450-8848
nicostacobar.com

Muffuletta was a beloved presence in the St. Anthony Park neighborhood for four decades, ahead of its time on local-sourcing and farm-to-table trends. It was the first restaurant in the local Parasole chain, which now operates Manny's, Prohibition, and Salut, among others. But a while before it closed at the end of 2017, the space was looking a bit... dingy. Dull. Tired. Now it's clean, bright, and lively, and that's thanks to the opening of Nico's Taco Bar on Como last fall. The new large bar adds a friendly vibe, and the white-and-teal color scheme features pretty cut-out accents. But this second location for Nico's is doing more than resurrecting a great space that includes a delightful patio: It's also serving up some of the Twin Cities' best Mexican food (try the pozole) and an impressive array of 100 percent agave tequilas.

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FOOD and DRINK

Best New Restaurant

Colita

5400 Penn Ave. S., Minneapolis
612-886-1606
colitampls.com

Starsky and Hutch. Thelma and Louise. Bill and Ted. Daniel and Marco. In 2017, chef Daniel Del Prado and beverage director Marco Zappia established themselves among the pantheon of all-time great duos when they opened the marvelous Martina in Linden Hills. Their follow-up collab, Colita, is a sequel that's anything but a *Bogus Journey*. Cooked-to-order tortillas are handmade with Oaxacan corn each day before cradling tempura fried shrimp or lamb barbacoa tacos. The cocktails—mixed with house-fermented spirits and served in ways you've never seen before—have become a Twin Cities icon, Instagrammed as often as *Spoonbridge and Cherry*. You'll never forget the lobster tostada piled with flying fish roe, nor the earthy but zesty wonder of a wild mushroom tlayuda. But while the food and drinks are seriously good, it never feels self-serious—just ask the rubber ducky winking up at you from your glass.

Readers' Choice: In Bloom

Best Restaurant in the 'Burbs

Jensen's Cafe

12750 Nicollet Ave. S., Burnsville
952-808-0500
jensenscafe.com

If you need a reason to make the trek to Burnsville, let it be the miraculous syrup concocted at Jensen's Cafe. This place offers lunch and dinner, but breakfast is where it really shines—and speaking of shine, nothing else does quite like the caramel-colored sheen radiating from Jensen's thick, gooey butter maple syrup. If a Werther's candy could be turned into a velvety sauce, you'd have something similar. Stick around for the Swedish pancakes, the lingonberry jam, the apple cinnamon bread, the gut-busting portions, and the sleepy, Sunday-morning feel of sunlight through a kitchen window.

Readers' Choice: Travail Kitchen & Amusements

Best Restaurant Worth the Drive

Feller

402 S. Main St., Stillwater
651-571-3501
fellerrestaurant.com

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FOOD and DRINK

up all your waking hours, but far enough to offer a change of scenery. Should you find your stomach grumbling on this most sensible day trip, make your way downtown. There, you'll happen upon Feller, nestled in the delightful boutique hotel Lora. The menu is billed as a "modern-day homage to hunters and gatherers," with an emphasis on seasonality and local fare. In layman's terms? Wild rice porridge, smoked trout, a bison burger, salad with pickled rhubarb, and a smoked pheasant pot pie. They're open for breakfast, lunch, and dinner, so no stressing about how to work in a meal at this new star of Stillwater.

Best Place to Eat Out with Kids

Cossetta's

211 W. Seventh St., St. Paul
 651-222-3476

cossettass.com

Absorbing new information all the time is exhausting, so when the kids need a break as opposed to a learning experience or palate-challenger, take them to Cossetta's Eatery and Pizzeria. The cafeteria-style setup is familiar, the sound level accommodates their excitement, and they get to choose from a selection of all their favorite foods: cheese pizza, cheese-filled pasta topped with more cheese, and cheese bread. (Adults will do just fine, too; there are plenty of traditional Italian options and more than a dozen salads, plus beer and wine.) Carry your trays up to the second level, with its expansive seating, including outdoor patio tables. If you play your cards right and avoid getting cannoli right away at the Eatery, you'll be heading across the hall to Cossetta's Pasticceria, where even more beautiful desserts, and an array of scratch-made gelato, await. You can even pop into Cossetta's Market on your way out, if you're running low on cheese. Or candy.

Best Restaurant for Romance

La Grolla

452 Selby Ave., St. Paul
 651-221-1061

lagrollastpaul.com

When you think of Italian restaurants in rom coms, you're probably picturing something like La Grolla: cozy and dark and intimate, with a big picture window giving a glimpse of the rain-damp city streets. Its size means waiters usually have to turn sideways to squeeze past you, but it also means you and your partner feel as though you're alone together—tucked somewhere worlds away, where there's plenty of delicious food, soft

conversation, and reason enough to stay for coffee by candlelight after the meal.

Readers' Choice: W.A. Frost

Best Restaurant for a First Date

Bryant-Lake Bowl

810 W. Lake St., Minneapolis
 612-825-3737

bryantlakebowl.com

First dates are awkward enough no matter where you're grabbing a drink... why not lean in and pair it with dorky bowling shoes? The menu at Bryant-Lake Bowl is made up of crowd-pleasing fare for everyone from burger lovers to health nuts, with options like a barbecue pulled pork and a quinoa bowl. Tasty as it is, you might want to return solo for the excellent, onion and garlic aioli-laden "Bad Breath Burger" if a first kiss is in the cards... of course, if things aren't going well, it might be just the deterrent you need. Wrap up on the lanes—especially during Monday's Cheap Date Night, when \$28 gets you two entrees, a bottle of wine or two tap beers, and a round of bowling. Figuring out how to keep score by hand will be another bonding experience.

Best Restaurant to Take Out-of-Towners

Keg and Case

928 W. Seventh St., St. Paul
 651-443-6060

kegandcase.com

Let's be real: Your guests are familiar with pizza and ribs and doughnuts. You know what they haven't experienced before? A towering glass grow chamber full of mushrooms that's emitting an otherworldly purple glow. This is the scene at Keg and Case's wild foods grocer, Forest to Fork, one of the two dozen-ish restaurants and shops ensuring this food hall's got something for everyone. Want a beer? Pop by Clutch Brewing Co. A cup of coffee? There's Five Watt. A croissant? Get to Rose Street Patisserie. And if they do crave a pizza/rib/doughnut, you can go to MN Slice/Revival Smoked Meats/Bogart's. It's a tour of some of the Twin Cities' best eats, and it's a win/win/win.

Best View

Prohibition

821 S. Marquette Ave., Minneapolis
 612-597-2413

thelivingroom-prohibition.com

When the Foshay Tower opened in 1929, the 27th floor was part of the owner's

FOOD and DRINK

private suite, decked out with mahogany and marble and boasting 360-degree views of the city. Today, the space is a luxe cocktail lounge, but its views are still unparalleled. True, the drinks are pricey, but it's worth nursing at least one or two for the chance to gaze out the windows at the city below and feel like a high roller for the evening.

Best Gluten-Free Menu

Hola Arepa

3501 Nicollet Ave., Minneapolis
612-345-5583

holaarepa.com

The best gluten-free restaurants are the ones that don't make a big deal out of being gluten-free. Food truck-turned-Kingfield mainstay Hola Arepa has never really marketed itself as being friendly to sufferers of Celiac or sensitivities, but every one of their corn-cake sandwiches is gluten-free and stuffed with South American meats that'll make you forget you ever had a dietary restriction to begin with. And you can take it beyond arepas: Have free reign on Hola's selection of cachapas, empanadas, and tostadas without a second thought to the gastrointestinal reckoning.

Best Vegetarian

Namaste Cafe

2512 Hennepin Ave. S.
Minneapolis
612-827-2496

namastechai.com

The cuisines of India and Nepal offer bountiful vegetarian choices, and Namaste Cafe is no exception. There's always a vegetarian curry option for the daily lunch box special, a bargain that includes a serving of vegetables, helping of beans, raita, and dessert. For dinner, try the richly spiced Punjabi spinach paneer, and don't forget to order a garlic paratha and cup of housemade chai on the side. While some selections are traditional and others are house creations, the through-line is the focus on balanced flavor and quality ingredients.

Best Vegan

Seed Cafe

3252-B W. Lake St., Minneapolis
612-345-7265

seedcafempls.com

A certain calm washes over you as you step into Seed Cafe. The clean white paint, the warm wooden accents, the plant life everywhere... maybe it's permeating through

the walls from Seed Cafe's sister business, the nearby Modo Yoga. Modo's freshly opened vegan breakfast-lunch-and-dinner counterpart is a lake-adjacent oasis; you'll hardly realize you're in a shopping center as you sip a zesty Golden Milk Latte or cappuccino. In more of an unwinding mood? There's beer, bubbly, and rosé for that. By the time you tuck into a cheesy chickpea frittata, protein-packed rice bowl, or spicy kimchi sandwich, you're fully blissed out—belly feeling as good as your soul does.

Best Deli

Cecil's Deli

651 Cleveland Ave. S., St. Paul
651-698-6276

cecilsdeli.com

Cecil's has been around since 1949, and at a deli with that kind of staying power, you can't go wrong. The no-frills sit-down area has the old-school charm of a true diner. Go for the latkes: They're generously sized, with a wonderful ratio of tender, starchy goodness to dark, crisp crust. Next, dive into the Reuben menu—yes, folks, there's a whole menu for Reubens—and don't come up for air until the last bit of sauerkraut has been sopped off your plate. Before you leave, the array of fresh meats and beautiful breads will cry out to you, asking you to make your own unique sandwiches at home. Take some cream soda, spicy mustard, and a jar of pickles with you for the road.

Best Neighborhood Grocery

North Market

4414 Humboldt Ave. N.
Minneapolis
612-302-3431

mynorthmarket.org

We Minnesotans are a proud people, but even our beloved North Star State isn't perfect. Take, for example, the fact that we're among the lowest-ranked in the nation when it comes to food access. It's a systemic problem that requires innovative solutions, and that's where North Market shines. For the last year and a half, the new nonprofit grocer in the Camden neighborhood of north Minneapolis—among America's largest federally designated food deserts—has provided nutritious and affordable food, wellness services, and health programs to a community in need. It's a place to get environmentally friendly bulk goods and take a yoga class, all under one roof. And that makes us proud to be Minnesotans all over again.

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www.instagram.com/thesaladgirl/

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FOOD and DRINK

Best International Grocery Store

Shuang Hur Supermarket
654 University Ave. W.
St. Paul
651-251-2196

Shuang Hur has everything you need when it comes to Vietnamese and South-east Asian cuisine, from bitter melon to kimchi to a rainbow of cuts of meat and live lobsters—plus a buckwild flavor of potato chip you may not have known existed. Take some time to explore the packed, narrow aisles. You'll need it to take everything in, and to process the mere steps necessary to go from frozen bao buns to colorful tubs of tea jellies and everything in between. And if you prefer to stay on the other side of the Mississippi, you can check out Shuang Hur's smaller location in Minneapolis' Whittier neighborhood.

Best Farmers Market

St. Paul Farmers Market
290 E. Fifth St., St. Paul
651-227-8101
stpaulfarmersmarket.com

While the location has shifted over the years, downtown St. Paul has been home to a farmers market since 1853, when buying local was the only option (and when Minnesota wasn't even a state yet). Today, the Lowertown extravaganza has the friendly feel of a neighborhood market, plus a dizzying selection of produce, farmstead cheeses, colorful bouquets, and small-batch artisan products like granola and hot sauce. All of this bounty is locally grown, too—and since no reselling is allowed, you know those technicolor heirloom tomatoes you're admiring are coming directly from the farmer who grew them.

Best Cookbook

Soo Fariista/Come Sit Down: A Somali American Cookbook
by Wariyaa

For nine months, the Somali American student group Wariyaa followed their mothers and grandmothers around the kitchen, then recorded and tested recipes that previously had not been written down. They noted not just the techniques, but also cultural tidbits and warm memories. A labor of love that showcases the variety of Somali American cuisine, this Minnesota Historical Society Press book is a valuable resource for the Minnesota cook looking to explore all of the flavors of our state.



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APR 20



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APRIL 27 SHOW SOLD OUT!

APR 28

FIRST AVENUE MAINROOM



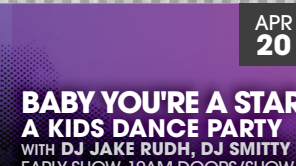
TIM HEIDECKER AND GREGG TURKINGTON ON CINEMA

APR 18



EMO NIGHT XXL

APR 19



BABY YOU'RE A STAR A KIDS DANCE PARTY
WITH DJ JAKE RUDH, DJ SMITTY
EARLY SHOW, 10AM DOORS/SHOW

APR 20



EROTIC CITY
WITH LENKA PARIS, DJ SHANNON BLOWTORCH, BROTHER JULES, MIKE 2600, & MORE
LATE SHOW, 8PM DOORS/SHOW

APR 20



EELS
WITH INSPECTOR CLUZO

APR 23



SON VOLT
WITH IAN NOE

APR 24



FOALS
WITH PREOCCUPATIONS, OMNI

APR 30



SUPERORGANISM
WITH SIMPSON

MAY 02



MANIC FOCUS
WITH RUSS LIQUID

MAY 03



GEAR DADDIES
WITH HIGH ON STRESS

MAY 04

PALACE THEATRE



AN EVENING WITH THE TALLEST MAN ON EARTH

MAY 03



PASSION PIT
WITH THE BEACHES

MAY 14



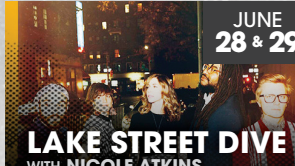
SNARKY PUPPY
WITH ALINA ENGBARYAN

MAY 25



GOGOL BORDELLO

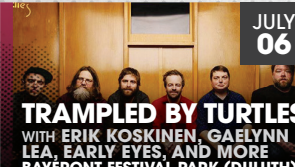
MAY 31



LAKE STREET DIVE
WITH NICOLE ATKINS

JUNE 28 & 29

UPCOMING OUTDOOR SHOWS



TRAMPLED BY TURTLES
WITH ERIK KOSKINEN, GAELLYN LEA, EARLY EYES, AND MORE
BAYFRONT FESTIVAL PARK (DULUTH)

JULY 06



LORD HURON
WITH BULLY
SURLY BREWING FESTIVAL FIELD

JULY 27



GARY CLARK JR.
SURLY BREWING FESTIVAL FIELD

AUG 09



BEN FOLDS AND VIOLENT FEMMES
SURLY BREWING FESTIVAL FIELD

AUG 14



SHAKEY GRAVES AND DR. DOG
WITH CAROLINE ROSE
SURLY BREWING FESTIVAL FIELD

AUG 17

FINE LINE



of Montreal
W/ YIP DECEIVER

APR 17



BILLY BRAGG
APRIL 19 SHOW SOLD OUT!

APR 18 & 20



LA DISPUTE
W/ GOUGE AWAY, SLOW MASS

APR 24



TERROR JR
W/ KOSSISKO

APR 26



THE NEW POWER GENERATION (NPG)
FT. THE MUSIC OF PRINCE

APR 27



BLACK LIPS AND FUCKED UP
W/ WOING

APR 28



THE MOTHER HIPPS
W/ DREAM OF THE WILD

APR 17



THE YAWPERS
W/ IN THE WHALE

APR 21



DIRTY MCKENZIE & KING OTTO
A NIGHT OF 90s AND 00s HIP-HOP

APR 18



SHY GIRLS
W/ AKUA

APR 23

TURF CLUB



THE HEAVY SIXERS, THE CUSTOMERS, AND DOUG COLLINS AND THE RECEPTIONISTS

APR 17



DILLY DALLY
W/ CHASTITY

APR 18



THE MURLOCS
W/ OHTIS

APR 19



ANVIL
W/ DON JAMIESON, ARCHER NATION, DJ DANNY SIGELMAN

APR 20



NEW SOUND UNDERGROUND AND GROOUMENT

APR 24



RACHAEL KILGOUR

APR 25



LADY LAMB
W/ RENATA ZEIGUER, ALEX SCHAAF

APR 19



AYLA NEREO
W/ HANDMADE MOMENTS

APR 24



MIDWEST FUNK ASSOCIATION FT. RON TRENT
W/ MIDNIGHT MUSIC CLUB, AARON BROOKS

APR 20



WILD FIRTH ALBUM RELEASE SHOW
W/ HARDHAT P.I., GEM JONES, CHEAP FANTASY

APR 25

AROUND TOWN



DARLINGSIDE
W/ LULA WILES
THE CEDAR CULTURAL CENTER

APR 18



HEALTH
W/ YOUTH CODE
AMSTERDAM BAR & HALL

APR 19



SASAMI
W/ ELLIS
AMSTERDAM BAR & HALL

APR 20



AN EVENING WITH BEA MILLER
AMSTERDAM BAR & HALL

APR 23



POKEY LAFARGE (SOLO)
W/ MATT SOWELL
THE CEDAR CULTURAL CENTER

APR 26

A LIST

THURSDAY Pink cider at Sociable p. 165

FRIDAY Sci-fi/fantasy fest Minicon returns p. 166

SATURDAY Dank brew for 4/20 p. 171

Leslie Barlow reflects on family in her latest show.



LESLIE BARLOW, GRANDMOTHER AND CHILD

WEDNESDAY 4.17

PERFORMANCE

DOUBLE HEADER: NEW MUSIC & DANCE DUOS

THE LAB THEATER

This thrilling double header, courtesy of Liquid Music, brings the exquisite Eva Mohn back into our orbit. Formerly a Minneapolis musician (Coach Said Not To) and performer with TU Dance, she's now with Sweden's eclectic Cullberg Ballet. Her own choreography is on display in this duo with Minneapolis-based composer, saxophonist, and multi-instrumentalist savant Mike Lewis (Andrew Bird, Bon Iver, Happy Apple). Dancer Sarah Baumert will also be joining in. But there's still more: Choreographer and Studio Wayne McGregor member Fukiko Takase is performing to music by pianist Dustin O'Halloran (*Marie Antoinette*, *Lion*, *Transparent*). Mind blown. This could be the smartest, most intellectually and aesthetically engaging concert of the year, if not the decade. Find tickets and more info at www.liquidmusic.org. 7:30 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday. \$30; \$25 Liquid Music subscribers. 700 First St. N., Minneapolis; 612-333-3377.

Through Thursday — CAMILLE LEFEVRE

ART

LESLIE BARLOW AT MERIDIAN

LE MERIDIEN CHAMBERS

In Leslie Barlow's new body of work, the Twin Cities artist investigates the complexity of identity and families. Drawing on her own interracial family and history, Barlow uses the luminous portraiture she's known for to traverse the boundaries of gender, race, and other labels that confine people into narrow frameworks. Using bright colors and pastel hues, her art is both rooted in the past and keeping an eye toward the possibilities of the future. The exhibition, titled "Leslie Barlow: A Familiar Portrait of Labor and Love," will kick off with an opening reception that includes

CONTINUED ON PAGE 165 ►



Health and Wellbeing Expo

featuring

Dr. Oz and Sharecare

Discover Sharecare and what it can do for your health.

Demonstrations on:

Stretching | Nutrition | Healthy meal planning | CPR

**Please join us
Tuesday, May 14, 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Minneapolis Convention Center**

Register at bluecrossmn.com/sharecareevent
Space is limited.



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Sociable Cider Werks goes pink with its latest brew.



IMAGE COURTESY OF SOCIABLE CIDER WERKS

CONTINUED FROM WEDNESDAY ►

tunes from DJ Kirkabee and wine. 7 to 10 p.m. Wednesday, April 17. 901 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis.

Through June 14 —SHEILA REGAN

COMEDY

ADAM RAY

ACME COMEDY CO.

"I was a fat kid growing up," comedian Adam Ray says, "and I think that's where a lot of my comedy came from. I was known as the little chub that wore sweatpants to class and said something funny when he raised his hand to answer a math question. So I thought, 'Okay, I'm going to try and make people laugh all the time.'" From there he began impersonating friends, relatives, and teachers. "People started to respond to that," he says. "I realized the more I did that, the more I was seen as the funny kid and not the fat kid." He brought his friends into the act, as it were, in junior high by making funny videos. "Instead of getting drunk or fucked up, we'd make these little movies and entertain ourselves." In high school, Ray and his buddies completely took over the high school news program. "We turned it into a sketch comedy show," he recalls. "We turned it into 15 minutes of comedy, with five minutes of announcements at the end. The teachers finally started turning it off, saying, 'We're not going to watch these idiots for 15 minutes!'" That experience paid off later, as Ray has had a steady career as an actor and voice artist, appearing most recently in

Arrested Development, *American Vandal*, and *Ghostbusters*, to name a few. 18+. 8 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday; 10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. \$15-\$18. 708 N. First St., Minneapolis; 612-338-6393. Through Saturday —P.F. WILSON

THURSDAY 4.18

BARHOPPING

PINCH FLAT RELEASE PARTY

SOCIABLE CIDER WERKS

Rosé has been having a moment. Now folks who like their adult beverages blush-colored and bubbly can try something different: pink cider. This spring and summer, Sociable Cider Werks has decided to make its Pinch Flat Hibiscus Rose its seasonal brew, and will host a variety of patio parties and pop-up events to celebrate throughout April and May. The launch party on Thursday is going to be hella pink, with pink decor, pink prizes (including lots of pink bike flair), and the new pink stuff on tap. Union Kitchen will be serving up eats, DJ HazyHarold will spin tunes, and there will be a photobooth onsite to help guests commemorate the party. 4 to 9 p.m. Free. 1500 Fillmore St. NE, Minneapolis; 612-758-0105. —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

COMEDY

JEFF DYE

RICK BRONSON'S HOUSE OF COMEDY

Standup comedian Jeff Dye is probably most widely recognized for his work on the MTV shows *Numbnuts*, *Money from*

CONTINUED ON PAGE 166 ►

photo/Daniel Corrigan

FROM THE REPLACEMENTS TO RIOT GRRRLS.

DOORS OPEN MAY 4

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first avenue

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Sat, May 4 • 10 am-5 pm

See and be seen on opening day, featuring live music from Faith Boblett, sets by DJs Andrea Swensson, Jake Rudh, and Lazerbeak, and more.

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WINE
Riot 2A

SATURDAY, MAY 4
2:30 - 5:30 PM



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SUNDAY, MAY 5
4 PM - 7:30 PM



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ALL THREE EVENTS!**

CODE: CITYPAGES



A-LIST

Prime Productions
examines life past
its prime.



JOSEPH GIANNETTI

CONTINUED FROM THURSDAY ►

Strangers, and *Girl Code*. He can also be seen on the reality TV series *Better Late Than Never* as the travel coordinator and suitcase holder for the show's other stars, William Shatner, Henry Winkler, George Foreman, and Terry Bradshaw. "When you're with those four guys, so many things happen," he says, "I'm like, 'I'm definitely going to remember to talk about that onstage.' People love hearing stories about those guys even if they're not doing anything that's particularly interesting." Being overseas, though, means not being able to do standup. "The entire time I'm abroad for *Better Late than Never* it's really fun, but it feels like being on vacation as opposed to actually working. I long to get onstage after any time that I'm not." That's where he gets to share experiences from his life. "I am single," the Seattle native tells an audience. He reasons his maturity level might be hindering his prospects. "There's no reason to grow up when you're me. I spend my whole day like an eight-year-old with cash. I love video games and pro wrestling, and once a week I throw up because I ate too much candy." 7:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday; 9:45 p.m. Friday; 7 and 9:30 p.m. Saturday. \$16-\$23. 408 E. Broadway, Mall of America, Bloomington; 952-858-8558. **Through Saturday —P.F. WILSON**

FRIDAY 4.19

THEATER
MARJORIE PRIME
PARK SQUARE THEATRE

Founded with the goal of increasing the number of theatrical opportunities for women over 50, Prime Productions has made an inspired selection with its latest effort, *Marjorie Prime*. The play envisions a world in which the elderly can procure robotic companions uncannily crafted to resemble deceased loved ones. In contemporary playwright Jordan Harrison's intriguing scenario, these artificial beings are known as Primes, exemplified by Walter, the supposedly perfect simulation of 85-year-old Marjorie's late husband. But while Walter has been programmed to replicate the departed, the resemblance to his namesake is the source of much conjecture. Even Marjorie, beset by the slow erosion of her own mental faculties, questions the illusion. Losing the struggle to retain her memories, Marjorie embodies the common fear of lost identity as her daughter and son-in-law ponder the possibility of replacing flesh and blood with a synthetic reproduction. Under the direction of Elena Giannetti, this production features an accomplished cast of Twin Cities talent, including

CONTINUED ON PAGE 169 ►

FREE ALL AGES RAIN OR SHINE

6TH ANNUAL LOWERTOWN BLUES & FUNK FEST

JULY 19TH & 20TH 2019

MEARS PARK ST. PAUL, MN
FRI 4:30pm - 10pm
SAT Noon - 10pm

FRIDAY FUNK
THOMAS MCCLARY
 Commodores Experience

BOOGIE WONDERLAND

SUMO SEVEN

SPIRE CREDIT UNION MAIN STAGE

SATURDAY BLUES
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POPA CHUBBY

CAROLYN WONDERLAND

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CRAIG CLARK BAND

BRIDGET KELLY BAND

SATURDAY YOUTH PERFORMANCE STAGE

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LowertownBluesFestival.com

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HEDWIG AND THE ANGRY INCH

Tyler Michaels-King Photo by Allen Weeks

HEDWIG AND THE ANGRY INCH

MAR 27
THRU
MAY 5

BOOK BY JOHN CAMERON MITCHELL
MUSIC AND LYRICS BY STEPHEN TRASK

DIRECTED BY ANNIE ENNEKING AND PETER ROTHSTEIN
MUSIC DIRECTION BY JASON HANSEN

STARRING TYLER MICHAELS KING AND JAY OWEN EISENBERG

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THEATER MUSICALLY

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Mary Mack is back
for Easter.



CHRISTINA GANDOLFO

CONTINUED FROM FRIDAY ►

acclaimed lead Candace Barrett Birk as Marjorie. The show is in previews April 19-25, 7:30 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays, plus April 23-24; 2 p.m. Sundays starting April 28. \$16-\$60. 20 W. Seventh Place, St. Paul; 651-291-7005.

Through May 19 —BRAD RICHASON

**CONVENTION
MINICON 54**

DOUBLETREE BY HILTON HOTEL

Some people will be celebrating Easter this weekend. Others will be celebrating science fiction and fantasy at Minicon. (And some will be celebrating both; there's an egg hunt on Sunday.) This volunteer-based, long-running con features a variety of things to explore, experience, and do during its three-day festivities. Guests of honor include Hugo Award-winning author Naomi Kritzer (*Fires of the Faithful*, *Turning the Storm*, *Freedom's Gate*); artist Tom Flemming, whose epic career has included working with the WWE, comics (Dark Horse, DC, Marvel), and on movies (including the animated sequences in *The Dangerous Lives of Altar Boys*); and Dave Devries, whose hyper-realistic renderings of child-drawn monsters are amazing and heartwarming. There's other fun to be had, too, with movie screenings with Cinema Obscura, kids'

crafts, live music, and a vendors' mart with artists, authors, and makers on the schedule. Talks and workshops cover a large swath of topics, and include beer tastings, costume design sessions, and scientist Q&As. Check out the full schedule at mnstf.org/minicon54. 3 to 11 p.m. Friday; 10 a.m. to midnight Saturday; 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. \$20-\$50 per day; \$70 weekend pass. 1500 Park Place Blvd., Minneapolis. **Through Sunday —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER**

THEATER

POP GOES THE NOGGIN

GREMLIN THEATER

Expectations are running high for Michele Lepsche's follow-up to the acclaimed *Roller Derby Queen*, a comic drama of familial codependency. The new *Pop Goes the Noggin* explores mental duress from a historical perspective, and is set in the supposedly sedate environs of Loon Lake State Hospital in northern Minnesota. Tarnishing the antiseptic wards is an unsettling legacy of both the practices of the medical professionals and the predicament of the patients. Such informs the backdrop of this Kari Steinbach-directed character study in which the institutionalized women of Ward 1 cling to their aspirations,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 171 ►

marc maron

Hey, There's More Tour



**SUNDAY
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Cabooze

ROLLING STONERS
APR 20

MFP: A Tribute To Widespread Panic
APR 25

Tubby Love Amber Lily
APR 27

ETANA
MAY 1

Ann Marie
MAY 2

Mark Battles
MAY 8

Tribute to David Gilmour
MAY 11

Struggle Jennings
MAY 18

Caskey "BS4" Tour
MAY 19

Shows at The Whiskey Junction
4/20 Smokin' Grass 420 featuring Kitchen Dwellers
4/25 DJ I Roach
4/27 Labor Temple 50 Years Later
5/1 32 Below
5/2 Lost Marbles
5/11 Hoodphellas

JUST ANNOUNCED 5/22/19
EXMAG

TICKETS: WWW.CABOOZE.COM
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Come celebrate the release of the 2019 edition of **The Tower!**
Event will feature free food, live music, readings, visual art displayed by contributors and free copies of the magazine!

The Tower Launch Party

Wednesday, April 24
6 p.m., Weisman Art Museum

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BAND**

Social Hour 6:30pm
Concert 7:30pm

Tickets \$49, members \$44



Del McCoury Band



All proceeds from May Day Music on Main benefit programming at the Hopkins Center for the Arts and the Hopkins Activity Center.

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TICKETS: 952-979-1111

www.hopkinsartscenter.com

1111 Mainstreet, Hopkins

A-LIST

CONTINUED FROM FRIDAY ►

quixotic as they may be, as a means of coping with both the surrounding madness and the harsh restrictions imposed by the draconian Nurse Triplet. *Pop Goes the Noggin* questions our understanding of mental disorders, particularly when the treatment alone seems insane. Find links to tickets and more information at www.sostheater.com. 7:30 p.m. Fridays through Sundays. \$20. 550 Vandalia St., St. Paul. Through May 12 —BRAD RICHASON

SATURDAY 4.20

COMEDY

**MARY MACK AND
THE EASTER FUNNY**

EAGLES CLUB #34

Mary Mack is worried about coming home for Easter. "I don't know why I get so stressed out, but I do," she says. "So I figured having a big party the night before Easter with people I really like spending time with would make that better." That party has taken the form of a funny, strange, and possibly sacrilegious comedy and music show at the Eagles Club. She's calling this a CD-release party, although the album in question was recorded nearly two years ago. Now it'll be available through all major streaming distributors, but her chances of making much money on it are slim. "I think you get paid like \$0.0000006 for every stream," she laughs. "But I guess it's time to send this album out into the world. It's like sending my kid off to school." The show itself promises to be weird and fun. In addition to sets from comedians Tiffany Norton and Comrade Tripp, there will be poetry by local punk-poet Paul Dickinson, music from the Goo Goo Mucks, and appearances by both the Pope and the Easter Bunny. "I'm going to marry the Pope!" Mack says excitedly. "But the Easter Bunny might show up and cause a scene. I mean, I am already married, but that's not a big deal." Jell-O shots and Busch Light specials will be in full effect all night long, and there will even be an Easter egg hunt for everyone in attendance, making this equal parts comedy show and terrifying Easter service on acid. 6:30 p.m. \$10-\$12. 2507 E. 25th St., Minneapolis; 612-729-4469. —PATRICK STRAIT

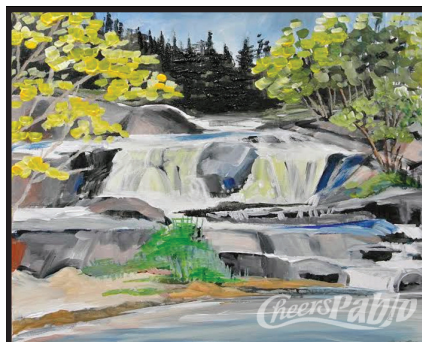
BARHOPPING

CITY PAGES' PRESS CHECK

56 BREWING

Hey man, City Pages made a beer and we're super excited about it. Well, 56

CONTINUED ON PAGE 173 ►



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4/17 **DEATH COMEDY JAM** Open-Mic w Chris Maddock
4/18 **BIG FAT LOVE: Celebrating John Prine 1/2 BDay**
4/18 **HOOK & LAUGHTER:** Mary Mack, Ahmed Khalaf Robert Baril, Mike Lester and Gabe Noah
4/19 **DRUG BUDGET** Final Show, Catbath & Small White
4/19 **THE NIGHT BEFORE 20** - Potluck String Band +
4/20 **HOT PINK HANGOVER**, Aaron Shekey & DebraG
4/20 **NEW CANDYS**, Falvor Crystals, Chatham Rise +
4/23 **CORNBREAD'S 92nd B-DAY PARTY**
4/24 **THE SHACKLETONS** #FreeMusicWednesdays
4/24 **DEATH COMEDY JAM** Open-Mic w Chris Maddock
4/25 **SMOKIN' JOE SHOW** - Live Stream 8pm - FREE
4/25 **BLUE OX PRE-PARTY** - Them Coulee Boys, Barbaro, & Chicken Wire Empire
4/26 **ANNA STINE & ROBERT BELL** w Ian George
4/26 **BLACK-EYED SNAKES + THE CLAUDETTEs**
4/27 **MISSION BANANA** Group Art Show Closing Reception
4/27 **BELFAST COWBOYS**
5/01 **TOMMY BENTZ BAND** #FreeMusicWednesdays
5/01 **DEATH COMEDY JAM** Open-Mic w Chris Maddock
5/02 **CHERRIE MORAGA** with Alexis Pauline Gumbs
5/02 **JASON CHAFFEE + JOE KOPEL** - Electric Song
5/03 **JIMMY 'DUCK' HOLMES & MIKE MUNSON**
5/04 **THE FLAMIN' OH's**, The Shackletons, & LowRay
5/04 **LEFT LANE CRUISER** with Slim Stone
5/08 **BECKY KAPPELL** #FreeMusicWednesdays
5/08 **DEATH COMEDY JAM** Open-Mic w Chris Maddock
5/10 **** MOREL FEAST **** - 3rd Annual Fundraiser
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A-LIST

CONTINUED FROM SATURDAY ►

Brewing actually made it in honor of our 40th birthday this year. This Saturday, it will be on tap as we host a little party. Press Check is a sour IPA brewed with loral and mosaic hops, giving it a tart and juicy flavor. Festivities during the day include a pop-up market, with chill music provided by Dreamboat and Of the Orchard. Noon to 3 p.m. Free. 3055 Columbia Ave. NE, Minneapolis; 612-404-0056. —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

BARHOPPING

DANKEST DAY OF THE YEAR

INSIGHT BREWING

Saturday is 4/20, a very important stoner holiday. Yet most of us still can't smoke the green stuff legally in Minnesota, so a handful of brew pubs are picking up the mantle and honoring their sister drug, weed, with a party. One such celebration is the Dankest Day of the Year at Insight Brewing. They'll be serving up "dank" pints, which are brews that are on the hoppy side, often with a green smell and aftertaste. They also tend to pack a high-alcohol punch, so make sure they don't sneak up on you like too many hits on a joint. For the evening, the crew will be tapping four varieties: the fruity Purple Sticky Punchbot, the oft-coveted Girl Scout Cookies Stout, the Train Wreck Troll (a triple-hopped Troll Way), and the "Oh, I don't smoke flower anymore. Straight hash," which is a strawberry milkshake IPA. Free munchies will be served throughout the day, and DJ Flipstyle TC will play top stoner jams. 7 to 11 p.m. Free. 2821 E. Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis; 612-722-7222. —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

BARHOPPING

THIRD ANNIVERSARY BLOCK PARTY

INBOUND BREWCO

It's been three years since Lucid rebranded, taking their beer inbound to the North Loop neighborhood. This weekend, they celebrate this milestone with a daylong block party. Highlights include the return of the Conifer Crush and Juicy Lucy IPAs, plus the release of a brand-new, double dry-hopped Berliner Weisse. No party is complete without munchies and tunes, so a whopping 10 different food trucks will be onsite and the soundtrack will be set by Adatrak and Ms. Lakesha from noon to 8 p.m., followed by the stoner-groove indie rock of Kingsview playing until midnight. There will also be beer specials for early arrivals. The

CONTINUED ON PAGE 175 ►



SMALL MOUTH SOUNDS
SILENCE ISN'T ALWAYS GOLDEN.

WRITTEN BY BESS WOHL

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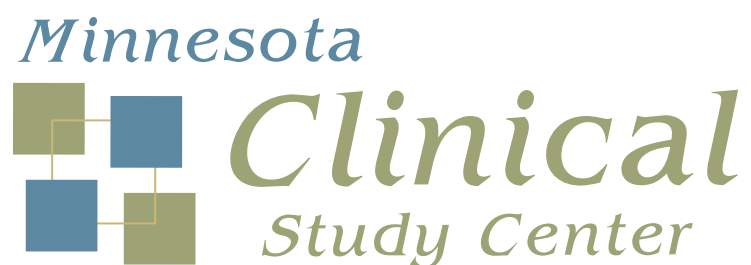
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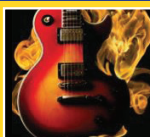
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SAT, APR 20



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Live Music by Thirsty River,
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FRI, APR 26



AUSTRALIAN BEE GEES SHOW

A TRIBUTE TO THE BEE GEES
*No Guest Band
Doors 7:30pm • Show 8:30pm • 21+

UPCOMING:

APRIL 27 DELBERT McCLINTON
with guest THE JIMMYS
MAY 3 AUSTRALIA'S
THUNDER FROM DOWN UNDER
MAY 11 ROCKIN' HOLLYWOODS
MAY 17 FABULOUS ARMADILLOS
Takin' It To The Limit: Eagles Tribute

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A-LIST

CONTINUED FROM SATURDAY ►

event runs from noon to midnight.
Admission is free, but RSVP'ing on
eventbrite.com is recommended.
701 N. Fifth St., Minneapolis;
612-615-8243. —LOREN GREEN

SUNDAY 4.21

PARTY

EASTER BONNET CONTEST

BETTY DANGER'S COUNTRY CLUB

Spend Easter with your drag family
this Sunday. While wigs can be an
important part of many a look, this
party will instead focus on hats.
Bonnetts, to be exact. Patrons are
encouraged to create the most insane
design possible; think flashing lights,
motorized parts, and slapping all of
Michael's on your head. The winner
will take home a whopping \$500—that
should buy you a shit ton of discounted
chocolate crosses and Cadbury Eggs
on Monday. Flip Phone will be hosting
this candy-coated pastel party, so expect
some pop-up drag performances. DJ
Daniela Bazo will spin tunes for the
dance floor. Get there by 4 p.m. if you
plan to compete. 21+. 3 to 7 p.m. \$10.
2501 Marshall St. NE, Minneapolis;
612-315-4997. —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER



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WE TURN 40, AND 56 BREWING JUST HAD TO BREW A BEER ABOUT IT. BE THE FIRST TO TRY THE TART, JUICY, SOUR IPA—PRESS CHECK— BREWED WITH LORAL & MOSAIC HOPS.

WHAT: CITY PAGES' PRESS CHECK SOUR IPA LAUNCH PARTY

WHERE: 56 BREWING

**WHEN: SATURDAY, APRIL 20
STARTING AT NOON**

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City Pages' 40th Birthday Party

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birthdaybash.citypages.com

The 70's Sunshine Band
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DJ Brian Engel of Hipshaker

The first 200 party-goers will receive a FREE birthday cookie from T-Rex Cookie Kitchen

Best Dressed Contest hosted by Primp Boutique

Photo Opps hosted by X-Games • Pop-up Digs by Triple Crown Apparel

Be first to try the 56 Brewing's new City Pages brew, "Press Check" Sour IPA

Samples from Stigma Hemp Company, Monkey Shoulder, Hendrick's Gin, Duluth Coffee Company, and more!

A portion of the proceeds will benefit HandsOn Twin Cities

CITY PAGES

STREET *Style*

ST. JUDE RED CARPET FOR HOPE TEEN GALA At Honey Minneapolis on Friday, April 12 **BY SAMSON MELKAMU**



HALA OMAR

50, HOMEMAKER

What are you wearing?

Parka Black Label silk ruffle dress, faux fur shoulder wrap, my daughter's prom earrings, a clutch, and Steve Madden Junior heels.

Describe your style:

Classic with a modern edge and a hint of glamour.

One thing in your closet you couldn't live without:

A classic clutch.



RICHARD LEGUIL

27, PROMOTIONS DIRECTOR AT K102

What are you wearing?

Hugo Boss jacket, Mark Anthony vest, Apt. 9 shirt, and a St. Jude pin.

Describe your style:

A classic '50s and '60s vibe.

Where do you get style inspiration?

My dad. He was a salesman and always wore suits so I inherited that from him.

One thing in your closet you couldn't live without:

Henley shirts, love them to death.



MICHAEL FRANCIS

57, MARKETING

What are you wearing?

A full Isaia suit, Gucci loafers, Tom Ford glasses, and a vintage JB Hudson brooch.

Describe your style:

Classic Italian tailoring.

Where do you get style inspiration?

Being in the business you pick up a few things.

One thing in your closet you couldn't live without:

A lint roller.



MATHEW SWENSON

38, CREATIVE DIRECTOR

What are you wearing?

My entire suit is Raf Simons' last collection for Calvin Klein, and a custom pair of white Converse.

Describe your style:

Laissez-faire élégante.

Where do you get style inspiration?

The three R's: Rick Owens, Rei Kawakubo, Raf Simons.

One thing in your closet you couldn't live without:

My hooded military jacket.



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FRI 5.17 7:00 PM vs LA CROSSE ARIS

FRI 5.24 7:00 PM vs SIOUX FALLS THUNDER

SAT 6.1 7:00 PM vs DULUTH FC

SAT 6.8 7:00 PM vs DES MOINES

SAT 6.22 7:00 PM vs TWINSTARS

FRI 7.12 7:00 PM vs MED CITY FC

SAT 7.20 7:00 PM vs ROCHESTER FC

FRI 7.26 7:00 PM vs NEBRASKA

SAT 8.3 7:00 PM vs UNION DUBUQUE

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EBRU YILDIZ

OF MONTREAL

FINE LINE, WEDNESDAY 4.17

The artistry of Of Montreal’s Kevin Barnes is relatively pure and unambiguously ambitious, disdainful of trends, hype, and restraint. Over the course of 15 studio albums that have increasingly moved toward one-man bands, his signature love of glam-indie pop-funk is continually tweaked but unmistakably Barnes. Onstage, the light shows, costume changes, and pseudo-dance routines can’t quite obscure the surprisingly splendid ensemble music. It’s all a cult worth embracing. 18+. 7 p.m. \$21 (\$35 for reserved balcony). 318 First Ave. N., Minneapolis; 612-338-8388. —BRITT ROBSON

DAVID HUCKFELT & MICHAEL ROSSETTO

CEDAR CULTURAL CENTER, FRIDAY 4.19

David Huckfelt left the Pines and spent two weeks on his own in remote Isle Royale National Park (six hours by boat off the Michigan coast) writing *Stranger Angels*, a yowling kindred spirit to the work of JJ Cale, which he’ll perform with his group the Unarmed Forces. Rossetto is a banjo player whose *Intermodal Blues on Shifting Paradigm* is imbued with the luminous tinge of African desert blues. A quick acoustic opening set by Dave Simonette (Trampled by Turtles) is the icing on the cake. 8 p.m. \$18; \$20 day of show. 416 Cedar Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-338-2674. —BRITT ROBSON

LAURA CAVIANI QUARTET

JAZZ CENTRAL, FRIDAY 4.19

Pianist Laura Caviani is the director of jazz studies at Carleton and will have the school’s Chamber Group open the show before she breaks out an ensemble without longtime bassist Chris Bates, although drummer Dave Schmalenberger remains, saxophonist David Milne is added, and Kevin Clements occupies Bates’ spot in the rhythm section. 7 p.m. \$10. 407 Central Ave. SE, Minneapolis; 612-695-7573. —BRITT ROBSON

CONCERT LISTINGS

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17

- BIG GEORGE JACKSON BLUES BAND**
7 p.m. April 17; free. The Hook and Ladder Theater & Lounge, 3010 Minnehaha Ave., Minneapolis; 612-345-7166.
- NOVA HUMAN (EP RELEASE SHOW)**
With Loud Sun and Extraterrestrials. 9 p.m. April 17; \$8. Icehouse, 2528 Nicollet Ave., Minneapolis; 612-276-6523.
- PSYCROPTIC AND CANNABIS CORPSE**
With Gorod, Micawber, and Phlegethon. 6 p.m. April 17; \$20. Lee’s Liquor Lounge, 101 Glenwood Ave. N., Minneapolis; 612-338-9491.
- THE IMMACULATE BEINGS**
8 p.m. April 17; \$10. Aster Cafe, 125 SE Main St., Minneapolis; 612-379-3138.
- THE MOTHER HIPPS**
7:30 p.m. April 17; \$15. 7th St. Entry, 701 1st Ave. N., Minneapolis; 612-338-8388.

THURSDAY, APRIL 18

- BILLY BRAGG**
7 p.m. April 18-20; \$40-\$55; Fine Line Music Cafe, 318 1st Ave. N., Minneapolis; 612-338-8100.
- DARLINGSIDE**
7 p.m. April 18; \$15-\$18. The Cedar Cultural Center, 416 Cedar Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-338-2674.
- DILLY DALLY**
With Chastity. 7:30 p.m. April 18; \$15-\$20. Turf Club, 1601 University Ave. W., St. Paul; 651-647-0486.

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WED APR 17
DAINA DE PREZ 4:30PM
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THU APR 18
BLUES AND RIBS WITH
PAUL METZA & WILLIE WALKER 5PM
THE BUTANES 8:30PM

FRI APR 19
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DARLINGSIDE with Lula Wiles
Doors 7pm • Show 7:30pm • All Ages • \$15 ADV/\$18 DOS

Friday, April 19
The Cedar and 89.3 The Current Present
DAVID HUCKFELT & THE UNARMED FORCES AND MICHAEL ROSSETTO
Dual Record Release with Dave Simonett
Doors 7pm • Show 8pm • All Ages • \$18 ADV/\$20 DOS

Wednesday, April 24
The Cedar and 89.3 The Current Present
An Evening with (two shows!) VALERIE JUNE AT THE CEDAR
Doors 6:30pm • Show 7pm • All Ages
Doors 9pm • Show 9:30pm • All Ages • \$30 ADV/\$35 DOS

Thursday, April 25
The Cedar Presents
SAM AMIDON with Humbird
Doors 7pm • Show 7:30pm • All Ages • \$18 ADV/\$20 DOS

Friday, April 26
The Cedar and First Avenue Present
POKEY LAFARGE
Doors 7pm • Show 7:30pm • All Ages • \$20 ADV/\$22 DOS

Saturday, April 27
The Cedar Presents
An Evening with ELIZA GILKYSO
Doors 7pm • Show 8pm • All Ages • \$25 ADV/\$28 DOS

Sunday, April 28
The Cedar and KFAI Present
SUSAN WERNER AND ELLIS PAUL
Doors 7pm • Show 7:30pm • All Ages • \$20 ADV/\$25 DOS

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Denim Matriarch EP Release with Blood People, Busey
FRIDAY APRIL 19
Think Fast!
Improvised Freestyle Standup
6:30PM • NO COVER

The 99ers + Black Widows
7" Split Release with The Carnegies
10PM • \$7

SATURDAY APRIL 20
Brunch Show
with Trash Catties, McVicker, Muscle Beach

UPCOMING SHOWS

Apr 25.....Scunchies
'Stunner' vinyl release & tour kick-off with Waveless, Ahem

Apr 27.....The Symptones
Album Release Party

May 2.....Self-Evident,
Traindodge, Vernon Wayne

May 7.....Shy Boys,
Good Doom, Free Music

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FRIDAY APRIL 19
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SUNDAY APRIL 21
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Wednesday, April 17 • 8pm

OBI, Okestar Bez Ime
Friday, April 19 • 8:30pm

Sons of Groove
Saturday, April 20 • 8:30pm

Dee Miller Band
Monday, April 22 & 29 • 6:30pm

Tim & Barry's Juke Joint
Tuesday, April 23 • 7:30pm

Tubby Esquire
Wednesday, April 24 • 7:30pm

Honky Tonk Jump
Friday, April 26 • 8:30pm

The Thunderheads
Saturday, April 27 • 8:30pm

Back Alley
Tuesday, April 30 • 7:30pm

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4.19 HOTPANTS DJS 10PM

4.20 HOOPS DANCE PARTY 10PM
BABYGHOST
DJ ROWSHEEN

4.26 GOZADERA - LATIN NIGHT

5.2 DR. MAMBO'S COMBO 8:30PM

5.4 DEUCES UP 10PM
DJ SHANNON BLOWTORCH
DJ KEEZY

5.6 PEELANDER-Z,
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5.11 RAMONES MANIA

5.26 JUNKYARD

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THE WESTSIDE BAND 9pm

TUE. DIRTY SHORTS BRASS BAND 7pm
WEE WILLIE WALKER & JELLYBEAN JOHNSON 9pm

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 APRIL 25 THE JELLYBEAN JOHNSON EXPERIENCE
 APRIL 26 G B LEIGHTON
 APRIL 27 LEGACY INTRODUCING LAKAME
 A NIGHT SUPPORTING YOUTH MUSIC EDUCATION
 APRIL 30 WILLIE WALKER & JELLYBEAN JOHNSON

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WEDNESDAY APRIL 17 (FREE)
 PRSPHNE/ MAKA DARYTL/ DAVENPORT/ DB OUTLAW

THURSDAY APRIL 18 (FREE)
 'GRIND' W/TRADEMARK/ MICHELLE MUSE/ ECHTOO

FRIDAY APRIL 19 (\$3 COVER)
 'DOG POUND' DANCE PARTY
 DJS JIM FRICK/ MADRE/ BERNDT

SATURDAY APRIL 20 (\$5 COVER)
 'FREAK OF THE WEEK'
 DJS NOLA/ EVIAN RAVE/ DEVIL GIRL

SUNDAY APRIL 21 (FREE)
 CABS/ COLD CITY HEAT/ LOLA'S PARADOX

MONDAY APRIL 22 (FREE)
 RIVER SINCLAIR/ THE SMOKES/ DIVA 93

TUESDAY APRIL 23 (FREE)
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 Sinatra, Dean Martin & other Big Band Classics!
THU APR 18 | 8:00PM | \$5 | 21+

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 5 TOP Metal Bands Both Fri & Sat!
FRI APR 19 & SAT APR 20 | 6:00PM | \$13 | 18+

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 Prince-themed DJ's & the Funk/R&B Band Lakame!
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MISS MYRA & THE MOONSHINERS
 Free Dance Lessons 7:00/Live Band 8:00!
WED APR 24 | 7:00PM | \$5 | 21+

VENOM INC. UK Extreme Metal Giants!
 WITH EXMORTUS, HOMEWRECKER & IMPALER
FRI APR 26 | 6:30PM | \$20 | 21+

TRAILER TRASH
 The King's of MN HonkyTonk/Alt-Country!
SAT APR 27 | 8:00PM | \$10 | 21+

101 GLENWOOD | DOWNTOWN MPLS | 612-338-9491

MUSIC CRITICS' PICKS

ECHOS

8 p.m. April 18; \$10. Skyway Theatre, 711 Hennepin Ave., 2nd floor, Minneapolis; 612-333-6100.

FRIDAY, APRIL 19

ALICE IN CHAINS

8 p.m. April 19; \$62-\$72. Armory, 500 6th St. S., Minneapolis; 612-315-3965.

GULLY BOYS

With YYY and Halfwolf. 10:30 p.m. April 19; \$10. Icehouse, 2528 Nicollet Ave., Minneapolis; 612-276-6523.

HEALTH

With Youth Code. 8 p.m. April 19; \$16-\$18. Amsterdam Bar and Hall, 6 W. 6th St., St. Paul; 612-285-3112.

LADY LAMB

With Alex Schaaf. 7 p.m. April 19; \$18-\$20. 7th St. Entry, 701 1st Ave. N., Minneapolis; 612-338-8388.

SATSANG

8:30 p.m. April 19; \$10-\$15. Cabooze, 917 Cedar Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-338-6425.

THE MURLOCS

With Ohtis. 8 p.m. April 19; \$14-\$16. Turf Club, 1601 University Ave. W., St. Paul; 651-647-0486.

SATURDAY, APRIL 20

ANVIL

With Don Jamieson, Archer Nation, and DJ Danny Sigelman. 8 p.m. April 20; \$15-\$20. Turf Club, 1601 University Ave. W., St. Paul; 651-647-0486.

JON ANDERSON OF YES

7 p.m. April 20; \$42.50-\$72.50. Fitzgerald Theater, 10 E. Exchange St., St. Paul; 651-290-1200.

LOCAL DOPE SH*T 420

Hip-hop showcase featuring performances by Chance York, Lifted Mindz, Rey Gordo, more. 9 p.m. April 20; \$5. Can Can Wonderland, 755 Prior Ave. N., Ste. 4, St. Paul; 651-925-2261.

SASAMI

With Ellis. 8 p.m. April 20; \$12-\$14. Amsterdam Bar and Hall, 6 W. 6th St., St. Paul; 612-285-3112.

SUNDAY, APRIL 21

THE YAWPERS

With In the Whale. 7 p.m. April 21; \$12. 7th St. Entry, 701 1st Ave. N., Minneapolis; 612-338-8388.

MONDAY, APRIL 22

GODSMACK

All ages. 5:30 p.m. April 22; \$57-\$72. Armory, 500 6th St. S., Minneapolis; 612-315-3965.

K. FLAY

7 p.m. April 22; \$10. 7th St. Entry, 701 1st Ave. N., Minneapolis; 612-338-8388.

TUESDAY, APRIL 23

BEA MILLER

6 p.m. April 23; \$15-\$18. Amsterdam Bar and Hall, 6 W. 6th St., St. Paul; 612-285-3112.

BETH HART

8 p.m. April 23; \$40-\$45. Pantages Theatre, 710 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis; 612-339-7007.

EELS

7 p.m. April 23; \$32.50-\$35. First Avenue, 701 1st Ave. N., Minneapolis; 612-338-8388.

SHY GIRLS

With Akua. 7 p.m. April 23; \$12-\$15. 7th St. Entry, 701 1st Ave. N., Minneapolis; 612-338-8388.

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 MEAT RAFFLE @ 5:30PM

UPCOMING
 Saturday, April 20
BIG TOE AND THE JAM
 Saturday, April 27
THE BLUES EXTRAVAGANZA
Hosted by Squishy Mud Band
 Bruce McCabe, Joe Flip, Wilbur Cole, Starlite Blues Brothers, Mark Arneson / Scott Graves & the Fabulous Mia Dorr Band

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Apr 17... Chris Thompson & Friends
 8pm-11pm

Apr 18... Bobcat
 8:30pm-12am

Apr 19... Lonesome Dan Kase
 9:30pm-1am

Apr 20... Becky Kapell
 9pm-12am

Apr 21... CLOSED FOR EASTER

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 WEST BANK - MPLS
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WED APR 17TH
 HIPPENANNY! A PALMER'S JAM
 HOUSE ON FIRE
THU APR 18TH
 DIRTY FRAMES, MUUN BATO, BLACK SATORI
FRI APR 19TH
 FRONT PORCH SWINGIN' LIQUOR PIGS
 XIII ARROWS w/
 SHAMBLE TOWN REBELS, MODERN THINGS
SAT APR 20TH
 SPOKEY DOKEY: BACK AT PALMER'S
 PLEASE STOP! GOO GOO MUCKS,
 DARYL HORNER, LIQUOR BEATS WINTER
SUN APR 21ST
 MUMBLIN' DREW w/ MUMBLIN' DREW'S
 ULDFANGLED ORCHESTRATORS
 KE'S ALMOST OPEN MIC
MON APR 22ND
 SKARAOKE w/ JADZIA
TUE APR 23RD
 DVRG & LARGE MARGE
 UNITE!

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CITY PAGES STREET TEAM

WHAT'S UP!
 WITH CITY PAGES!

CITY PAGES' PRESS CHECK SOUR IPA LAUNCH PARTY
 join us!

Stop the presses! We turn 40 and 56 Brewing just had to brew a beer about it. Be the first to try the tart, juicy, sour IPA, Press Check, brewed with local and mosaic hops.

We're kicking off our birthday festivities early on April 20th at 56 Brewing starting at noon, with pop up shops, music, and fresh brews.

Bring your kids and pups! Stop by for an hour, stay all day, whatever you decide, you're not going to want to miss out.

SAT APRIL 20 • 12-3PM
56 BREWING
 3055 Northeast Columbia Avenue
 #Suite 102, Minneapolis, MN

City Pages' 40th Birthday Party
DISCO BASH
 tickets on sale now!

Put your dancing shoes on because we're ready to party like it's 1979. City Pages is 40 and that means we're getting down in funkytown.

Break out your best dancing shoes and get ready to leave it all out on the floor.

FRI APRIL 26 • 8PM
FIRST AVENUE

STREET TWEETS
 @CITYPAGESSTREET

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14				15		16				17				
18					19					20				
21				22						23				
24			25		26				27				28	29
30				31					32				33	
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43					44					45				
46				47						48		49	50	51
52				53				54	55	56	57		58	
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63	64					65					66			
67						68				69				
70						71					72			

ROUND TRIPS

BY BRENDAN EMMETT QUIGLEY

Across

- 1 “La bohème” lead
5 Quick run
9 Theme, in art
14 “There’s no honor ___ thieves”
16 Romance novelist’s award
17 Wear down
18 “White Fang” author
20 Game of pattern recognition
21 Sitcom planet
22 Shipping stuff
23 “Mind blown”
24 Stink
26 2016/2020 political slogan
30 Starbucks freebie
32 Apple Watch runs on it
33 Little battery
34 Legal thing
36 Poop
38 Funereal fire
39 Cast material
43 Landed
44 Copied
45 Wellness grp.
46 Rapper ___ Khalifa
47 “As a heads up,” initially
48 Shells and bowties
52 Playboy model who won the first season of “Dancing with the Stars”
58 NBA announcer Albert
59 ___ Musk Smoking Weed (meme)
60 Painter Jean-Baptiste-Camille
62 Cleaning solution

- 63 Freak out
65 Conformist’s phrase
67 Movie trailer, e.g.
68 Guitar god’s moment
69 Freshwater fish
70 Submarine’s device
71 Colin who co-hosts “Weekend Update”
72 Farm builders

Down

- 1 College concentrations
2 Istanbul hostel
3 Relentless teaser
4 Octopus defense
5 Eminem’s mentor
6 Celtic’s honcho Danny
7 Spot at the bar
8 Sci-fi villain represented as a red light
9 Fits together
10 Nighttime hunter
11 Slayer’s lead singer
12 “Me!”
13 Swampland
15 Vitamin store
19 Clumsy fellow
23 Racing-by sound
25 Gemstone measurement
27 Verbal argument
28 Tombstone VIP
29 Modern honey
31 Rapper Sheck ___
35 Don’t leave, as a bandwagon
36 Anger

- 37 Signify yes
38 Kind of golf tournament
39 Ballerina’s bend
40 Head writer for “TGS with Tracy Jordan”
41 Impressively great
42 Little demon
43 Bird’s cry
47 Author Dostoevsky
49 Kind of pink
50 Audition (for)
51 Turns the other way
53 Andean critter
54 Bug report?
55 Caroler’s repertoire
56 “... did I say something bad?”
57 Me, pretentiously
61 Blasting sticks
63 Smartphone setting
64 Gold: Sp.
65 Ben Zimmer’s paper
66 Pitching stat.

Last Week’s Answer

J	I	A	N	G		M	P	A	A		B	V	D	S
A	C	T	O	R		P	R	I	X		R	O	O	K
H	E	L	L	O		T	H	E	R	E		A	T	T
						T	O	R			P	O	L	O
W	I	N	E	V	A	T		U	S	B		I	R	A
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H	O	S	E	A		A	N	T	S		C	S	I	
U	T	A		S	L	Y		S	T	O	P	H	E	R
B	O	L	O	T	I	E	S		O	U	I			
C	O	U	P		V	A	C	A	N	T	L	O	T	S
A	L	T	A		R	Y	A	N		W	A	R	I	O
P	E	E	L		E	N	Y		O	F	A	L	L	

331club

wed : april 17
7pm : kfai house party presents
the common ground company
9:30pm : the beguine brothers
old time c & w revue, ltd

thu : april 18
9:30pm : cross pollination
with joshua parlanti
and rachel lane

fri : april 19
7pm : laura and sean’s
movie and music trivia
9:30pm : bitter ghost,
blood banks, city & state

sat : april 20
7pm : trivia mafia presents
331 drinkin’ spelling bee

10pm : poolboy,
smellkin ernesto, meg kirsch

sun : april 21
3-5:30pm : corpse reviver
(harry smith’s anthology
of american folk music)
season finale
8pm : trivia mafia

mon : april 22
8pm : the roe family singers
10pm : doug otto and friends

tue : april 23
7-9pm : t.e.e. tuesday early evening
molly dean
9:30pm : 331 club and fair state brewing
cooperative present april conspiracy series
featuring: kiss the tiger (country set)
with fletcher magellan

331 13th avenue northeast
13th & university : ne mpls : www.331club.com



AMSTERDAM
BAR & HALL

WEDNESDAY APRIL 17
Stand Up Saint Paul
7PM • BAR STAGE • 21+ • FREE!

FRIDAY APRIL 19
FIRST AVENUE PRESENTS
Health, Youth Code
8PM • HALL STAGE • 18+ • \$16 ADV/\$18 DOS

SATURDAY APRIL 20
FIRST AVENUE PRESENTS
Sasami, Ellis
8PM • HALL STAGE • 18+ • \$16 ADV/\$14 DOS

SUNDAY APRIL 21
Trivia Mafia’s
Brunch Trivia
NOON • BAR STAGE • 21+ • FREE

MONDAY APRIL 22
Joe Hunt
8PM • BAR STAGE • 21+ • FREE

TUESDAY APRIL 23
FIRST AVENUE PRESENTS
An Evening with
Bea Miller
6PM • HALL STAGE • AA • \$15 ADV/\$18 DOS

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AMSTERDAMBARANDHALL.COM

FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

>> By Rob Brezсны

ARIES (March 21-April 19): French writer Simone de Beauvoir sent a letter to her lover, Aries author Nelson Algren. She wrote, “I like so much the way you are so greedy about life and yet so quiet, your eager greediness and your patience, and your way of not asking much of life and yet taking much because you are so human and alive that you find much in everything.” I’d love to see you embody that state in the coming weeks, Aries. In my astrological opinion, you have a mandate to be both utterly relaxed and totally thrilled; both satisfied with what life brings you and skillfully able to extract the most out of it; both at peace with what you already have and primed to grab for much more.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): The Beat Generation of American poets arose in the late 1940s as a rebellion against materialistic mainstream culture and academic poetry. It embraced sexual liberation, Eastern spirituality, ecological awareness, political activism, and psychedelic drugs. One of its members, Jack Kerouac, tweaked and ennobled the word “beat” to serve as the code name for their movement. In its old colloquial usage, “beat” meant tired or exhausted. But Kerouac re-consecrated it to mean “upbeat” and “beatific,” borrowing from the Italian word beato, translated as “beatific.” I bring this to your attention, Taurus, because you’re on the verge of a similar transition: from the old meaning of “beat” to the new.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): “Scattered through the ordinary world, there are books and artifacts and perhaps people who are like doorways into impossible realms, of impossible and contradictory truth,” Argentinian author Jorge Luis Borges said that, and now I’m passing it on to you—just in time for your entrance into a phase when such doorways will be far more available than usual. I hope you will use Borges’ counsel as a reminder to be alert for everyday situations and normal people that could lead you to intriguing experiences and extraordinary revelations and life-changing blessings.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): The Free Will Astrology Committee To Boldly Promote Cancerian’s Success is glad to see that you’re not politely waiting for opportunities to come to you. Rather, you’re tracking them down and proactively wrangling them into a form that’s workable for your needs. You seem to have realized that what you had assumed was your fair share isn’t actually fair; that you want and deserve more. Although you’re not being mean and manipulative, neither are you being overly nice and amenable; you’re pushing harder to do things your way. I approve! And I endorse your efforts to take it even further.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Many experts who have studied the art and science of running fast believe that it’s best if a runner’s legs are symmetrical and identical in their mechanics. But that theory is not supported by the success of champion sprinter Usain Bolt. Because he has suffered from scoliosis, his left leg is a half-inch longer than his right. With each stride, his left leg stays on the track longer than his right, and his right hits the track with more force. Some scientists speculate that this unevenness not only doesn’t slow him down, but may in fact enhance his speed. In accordance with current astrological variables, I suspect you will be able to thrive on your asymmetry in the coming weeks, just as your fellow Leo Usain Bolt does.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Virgo adventurer Jason Lewis traveled around the world using transportation powered solely by his own body. He walked, bicycled, skated, rowed, pedaled, and swam more than 46,000 miles. I propose that we make him your role model for the next four weeks. You’re primed to accomplish gradual breakthroughs through the use of simple, persistent, incremental actions. Harnessing the power of your physical vitality will be an important factor in your success.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Curcumin is a chemical found in the plant turmeric. When ingested by humans, it may diminish inflammation, lower the risk of diabetes, support cardiovascular health, and treat digestive disorders. But there’s a problem: the body is inefficient in absorbing and using curcumin—unless it’s ingested along with piperine, a chemical in black pepper. Then it’s far more available. What would be the metaphorical equivalent to curcumin in your life? An influence that could be good for you, but that would be even better if you synergized it with a certain additional influence? And what would be the metaphorical equivalent of that additional influence? Now is a good time to investigate these questions.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): “I have the usual capacity for wanting what may not even exist,” wrote poet Galway Kinnell. How about you, Scorpio? Do you, too, have an uncanny ability to long for hypothetical, invisible, mythical, and illusory things? If so, I will ask you to downplay that amazing power of yours for a while. It’s crucial for your future development that you focus on yearning for actual experiences, real people, and substantive possibilities. Please understand: I’m not suggesting you’re bad or wrong for having those seemingly impossible desires. I’m simply saying that for now you will thrive on being attracted to things that are genuinely available.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): “Sometimes I have kept my feelings to myself, because I could find no language to describe them in,” wrote Sagittarian novelist Jane Austen. I’m guessing you’ve had that experience—maybe more than usual, of late. But I suspect you’ll soon be finding ways to express those embryonic feelings. Congrats in advance! You’ll discover secrets you’ve been concealing from yourself. You’ll receive missing information whose absence has made it hard to understand the whole story. Your unconscious mind will reveal the rest of what it has thus far merely been hinting at.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): All over the world, rivers and lakes are drying up. Sources of water are shrinking. Droughts are becoming more common and prolonged. Why? Mostly because of climate change. The good news is that lots of people are responding to the crisis with alacrity. Among them is an engineer in India named Ramveer Tanwar. Since 2014, he has organized efforts leading to the rejuvenation of 12 dead lakes and ponds. I propose we make him your role model for the coming weeks. I hope he will inspire you to engage in idealistic pursuits that benefit other people. And I hope you’ll be motivated to foster fluidity and flow and wetness everywhere you go. The astrological time is ripe for such activities.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): A blogger named Caramelized offered her definition of elegance: “being proud of both your feminine and masculine qualities; seeing life as a non-ending universality and learning everything you can; caring for yourself with tender precision; respecting and taking advantage of silence; tuning in to your emotions without being oversensitive; owning your personal space and being generous enough to allow other people to own their personal space.” This definition of elegance will be especially apropos and useful for you Aquarians in the coming weeks.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You Pisceans have been summoning heroic levels of creative intensity. You’ve been working extra hard and extra smart. But it seems that you haven’t been fully recognized or appreciated for your efforts. I’m sorry about that. Please don’t let it discourage you from continuing to express great integrity and authenticity. Keep pushing for your noble cause and offering your best gifts. I’m proud of you! And although you may not yet have reaped all the benefits you will ultimately sow, three months from now I bet you’ll be pleased you pushed so hard to be such a righteous servant of the greater good.

freewillastrology@freewillastrology.com
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Workmates

My girlfriend was dating her married boss

When I first started dating my girlfriend, I asked her about past boyfriends and she said she hadn't

met the right guy yet. After dating for nine years, I found out about a past boyfriend and looked through her emails.

I found out she dated her married boss for three years. She broke up with me for looking and for judging her. I feel like she lied, and she thinks it was none of my business. We've been broken up for five months. She's reached out, but I can't

get over my anger or disgust that she was someone's mistress. Am I a bad person?

STILL ANGRY AND DISGUSTED



Dan Savage

Yup. Almost everyone has done something and/or someone they regret doing—although it's possible your ex-girlfriend doesn't regret fucking her married boss for three years, and it's possible there's no need for regret.

Sometimes people have affairs for all the right reasons. Sometimes abandoning a spouse and/or breaking up a home with kids in it—aka “doing the right thing” and divorcing—is the worse choice. Life is long and complicated, and it's possible for a person to demonstrate loyalty and commitment with something other than their genitals. Sometimes people do what they must to stay married and stay sane, and their affair partners are doing good by being “bad.”

It's also possible—and perhaps likelier—that your ex-girlfriend made an impulsive, shitty, selfish choice to fuck someone else's husband. It's possible he's a serial philanderer, a cheating piece of shit, and then, after fucking him that one time, your girlfriend felt pressured to keep fucking him and wound up having a years-long affair with her married boss. And then, when it was all over, she stuffed it down the memory hole because she wasn't proud of it and wanted to forget it.

It's also possible she didn't tell you about this relationship when you asked because she intuited—correctly, as it turned out—that you are, in your own words, a bad person—i.e., the kind of guy

who would punish his girlfriend for having a sexual history, for making her fair share of mistakes, and for deciding to keep some things private. (Not secret. Private.)

In other words, she correctly intuited that you would punish her for being human.

Finding out about a past boyfriend doesn't give you the right to invade your partner's privacy and dig through their ancient emails. Your girlfriend was right to break up with you for snooping through her emails and judging her so harshly. And she didn't even lie to you, dude! Her

boss clearly wasn't “the right guy,” seeing as he was married and her boss, and the relationship ended before you two even first laid thighs on each other nine years ago.

From where I'm sitting, it looks like she still hasn't met the right guy.

To be perfectly frank, I don't want to help you get over your anger and disgust—not that you asked me to help you get past those feelings. It kind of sounds like you want your anger and disgust affirmed... and I'm going to go with that and affirm

“Finding out about a past partner doesn't give you the right to invade your partner's privacy.”

the shit out of those feelings: Stay angry! Stay disgusted! Not because those feelings are valid—they're not—but because those feelings prevented you from taking your ex back when she reached out. She may not know it yet, but she's better off without you, and here's hoping you stay angry and disgusted long enough for her to realize it.

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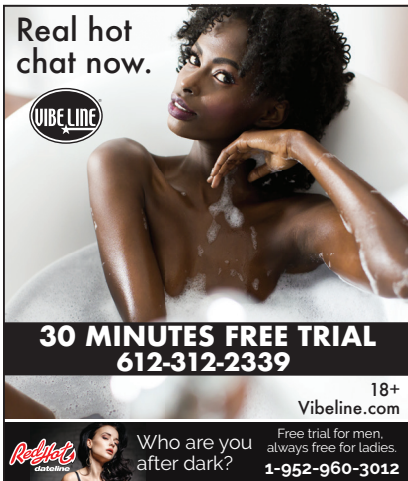
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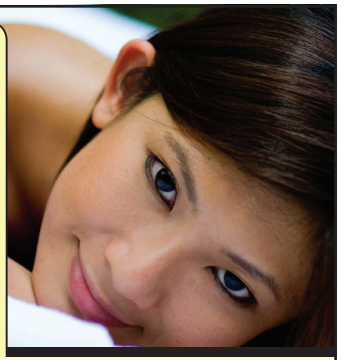
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